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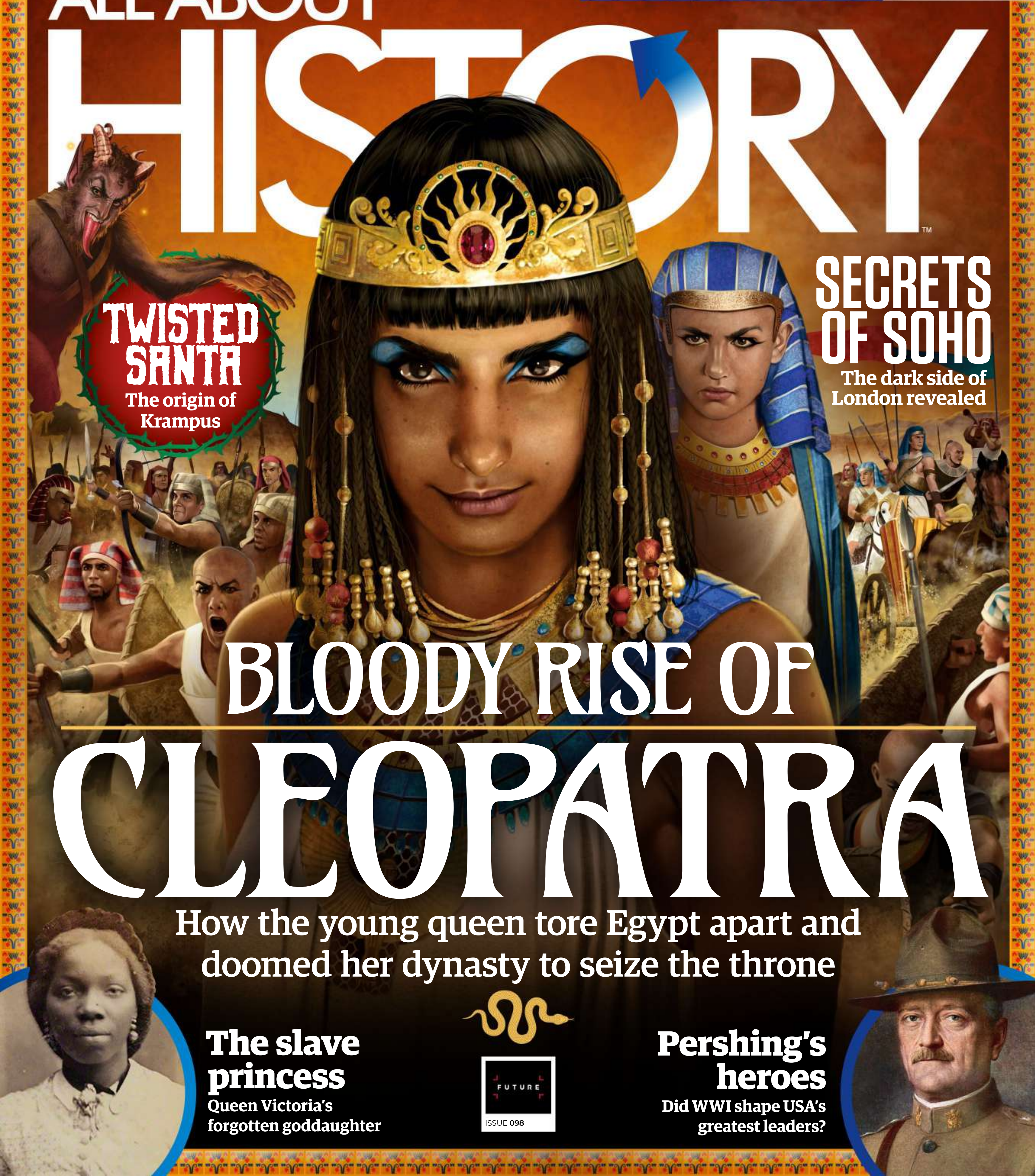

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The origin of Krampus

SECRETS OF SOHO
The dark side of London revealed

BLOODY RISE OF CLEOPATRA

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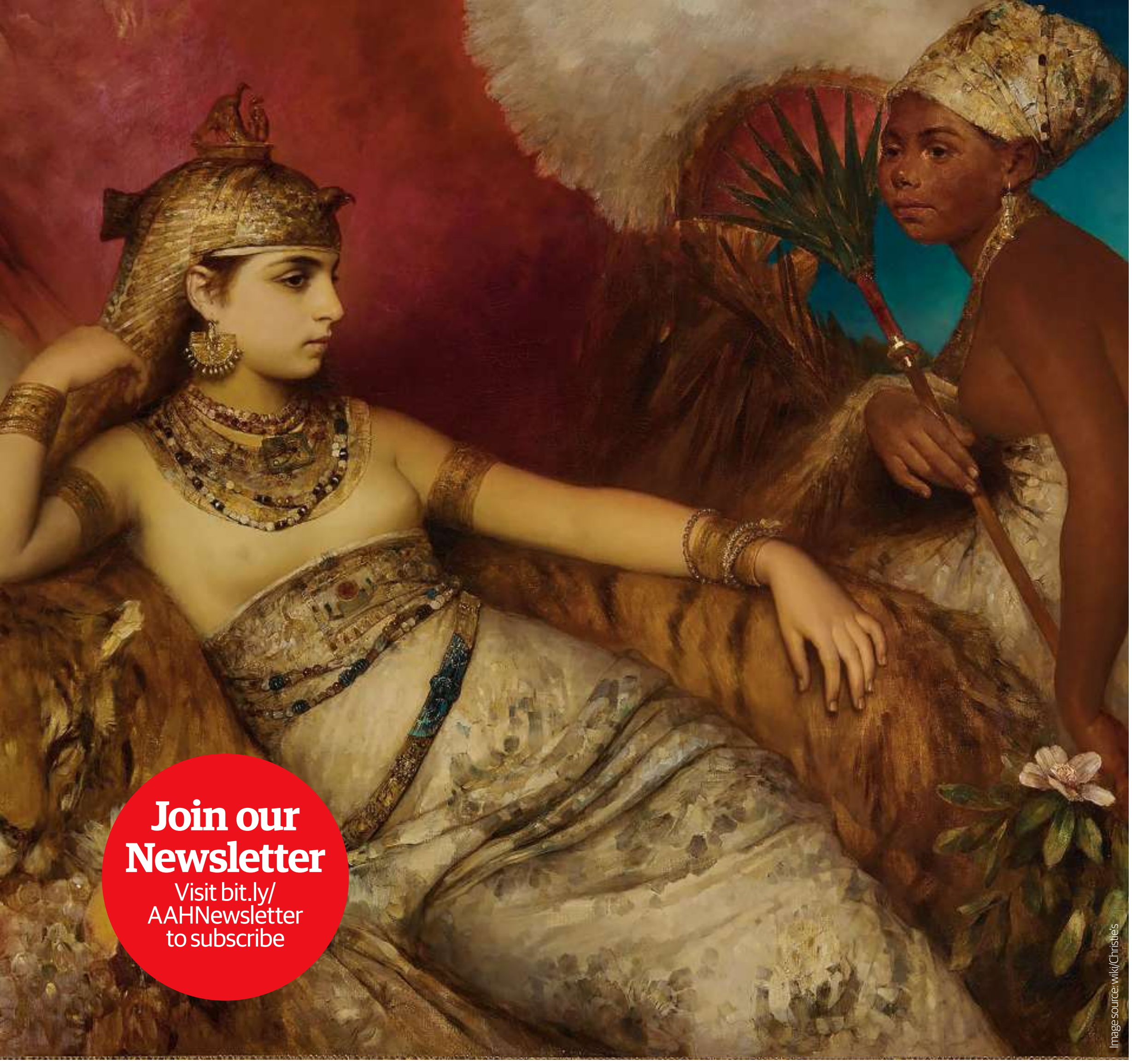

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Image source: wiki/Christie's

Cleopatra was around 17 years old when her father first made her co-ruler of Egypt

Welcome

What comes to mind when you hear the name Cleopatra? Is it the love affairs with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony? Is it her dramatic suicide with a poisonous snake? Perhaps it's simply Elizabeth Taylor? The popular depictions of the last pharaoh of Egypt have tended to focus on these tumultuous and salacious details, intertwined as Egypt was with the emergence of the Roman Empire out of the Republic. But what about Cleopatra the savvy political operator? What about Cleopatra the usurper who wrenched power from her brothers to rule alone? There's so much more to her that we wanted to explore, as you'll learn in our lead feature this issue.

As we enter the festive period we also thought we would bring you some seasonal history. You can dig into the story of Krampus, for instance, and learn how this dark fairy tale came into existence and became so popular in certain parts of the world. We also look at the history of toys, a subject not considered very often. You can learn a lot about the role of children in a society and track the changing styles of education through toys, as we get into in our All About section.

And speaking of Christmas, if you're still on the lookout for some last-minute gifts then we have a little gift guide that may help you out. Plus, we like to think *All About History* makes a pretty fine present too! Best wishes from myself and the team.

Jonathan Gordon
Editor

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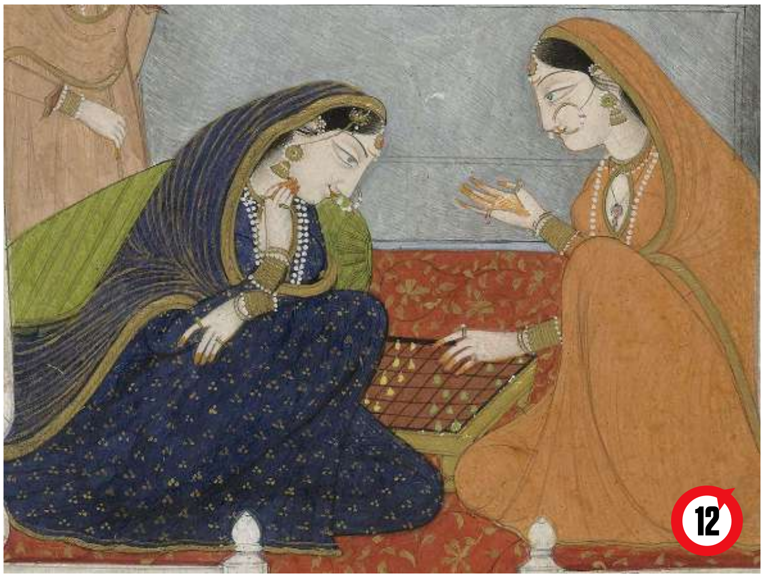
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Bloody rise of Cleopatra

How her struggle for the throne tore Egypt apart

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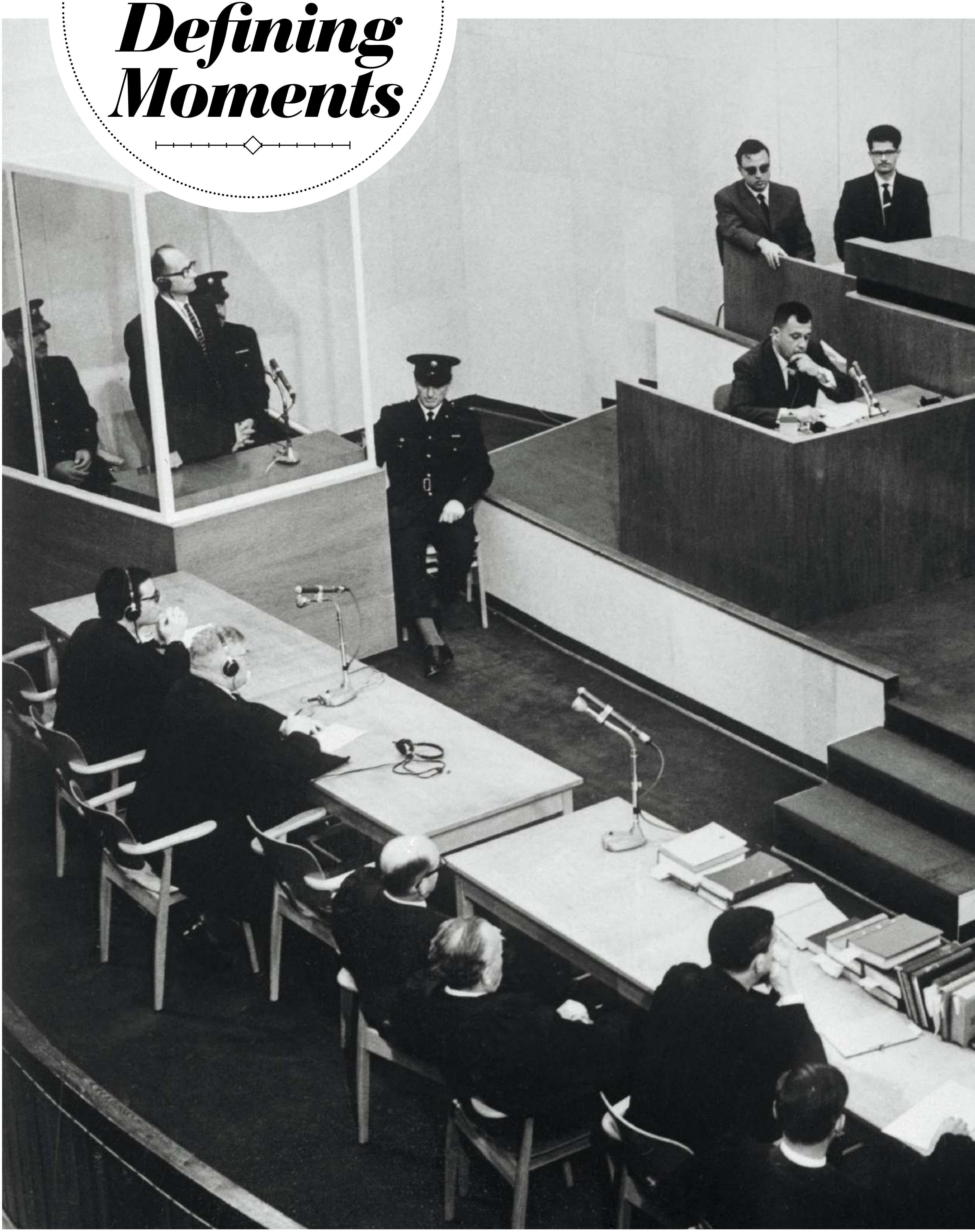
Defining Moments



© Getty Images

15 December 1961

ADOLF EICHMANN IS SENTENCED

After eight months on trial in Jerusalem, Nazi SS officer Adolf Eichmann – the architect of the Holocaust – is sentenced to death. His trial was the first in history to be televised and he was found guilty on 15 charges, including war crimes, crimes against the Jewish people and crimes against humanity.

© Getty Images

22 December 1989

BRANDENBURG GATE REOPENS

Brandenburg Gate, Berlin's most iconic landmark, finally reopened one month after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Thousands of people descended on the Gate to watch the historic moment that West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl walked through to be greeted by Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister. It signalled the end of almost three decades of division in Germany.

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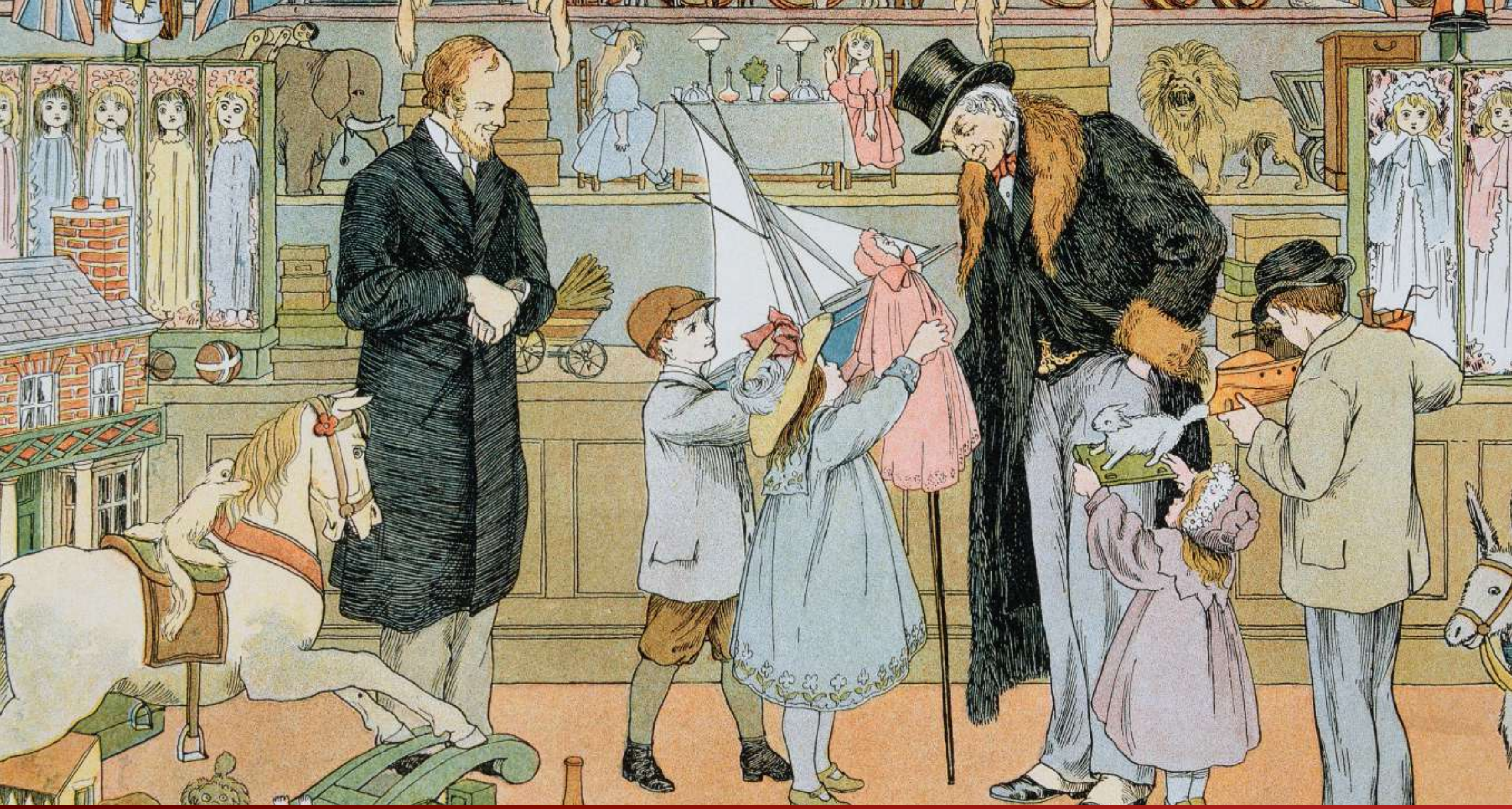

ALL ABOUT
TOYS

From the earliest board games to 20th century electronic wonders, we explore the rich and diverse history of toys and what we can learn from them

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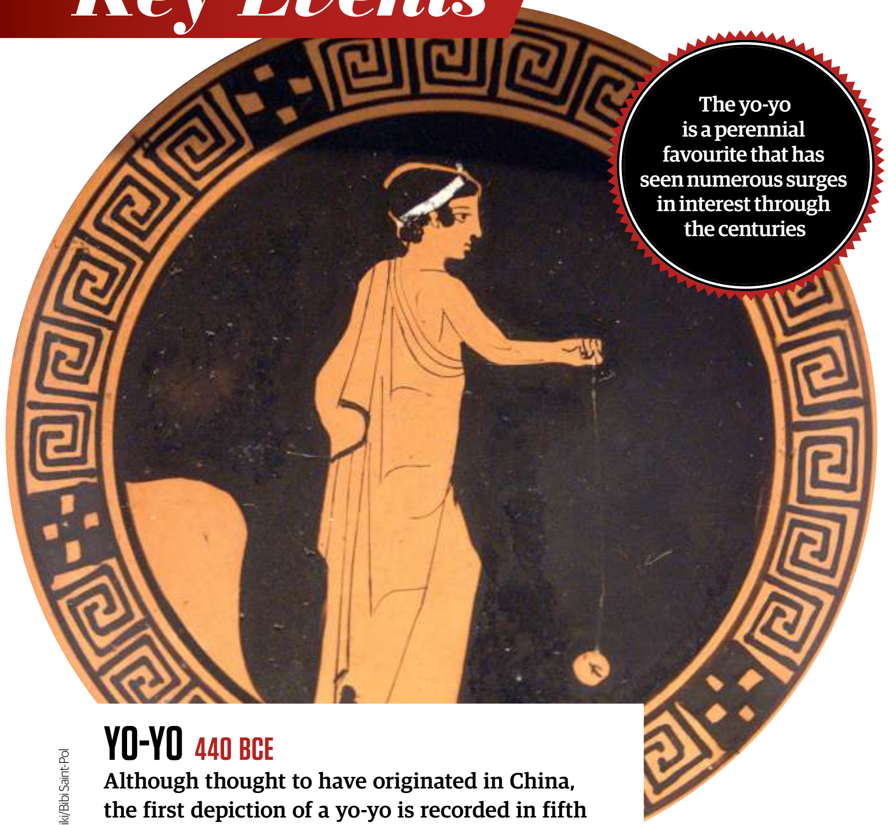
Main image source: © Getty Images

Written by Jessica Leggett, Jonathan Gordon

Key Events



The yo-yo is a perennial favourite that has seen numerous surges in interest through the centuries

Image source: wiki/Bibi Saint-Pol

YO-YO 440 BCE

Although thought to have originated in China, the first depiction of a yo-yo is recorded in fifth century Greece, typically made from wood or metal. It is the custom for a child's toys to be offered to the gods upon reaching adulthood as a rite of passage.

Image source: wiki/ Missouri History Museum

PRESIDENTIAL BEAR 1902

The Steiff company in Germany, a longtime maker of animal toys for children, develops a new bear with articulated arms and legs made from a cuddly mohair material. Spotted by a US salesman at a toy fair, they begin a sensation in America. They're dubbed Teddy bears after then-president Theodore 'Teddy' Roosevelt.

Image source: wiki/Rob Koopman

EGYPTIAN MARBLES c.4000 BCE

One of the earliest known examples of a toy are the marbles found in tombs for Ancient Egyptian children. The small round objects could well date back even further.

HORSING AROUND c.1600

Derived from the hobby horse toy that dates back to ancient times, the rocking horse is developed and proves hugely popular, including with the future Charles I of England when he was young.

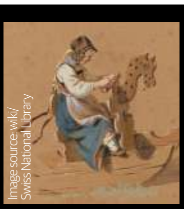


Image source: wiki/ Swiss National Library

DOLL PRODUCTION 1840

The first mass-produced porcelain dolls out of Germany begin to be sold. Called bisque dolls, they will become hugely popular around the world.

TALKING DOLL 1887

Hoping to bring his phonograph technology into the home of Americans, Thomas Edison develops a doll that houses his wax cylinder design with recordings of popular nursery rhymes.

c.4000 BCE — c.3000 BCE — 600 CE — 1838

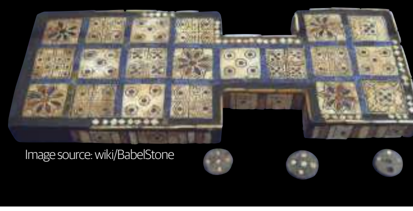


Image source: wiki/BabelStone

BOARD GAMES c.3000 BCE

Board games are already a popular pastime of the ancient world with one, the Royal Game of Ur, being a precursor to what we would now call backgammon.

PLAY AND LEARN 1689

Enlightenment philosopher John Locke expresses his belief that play is an important part of a child's learning process, helping to drive greater interest in educational toys.

Image source: wiki/Musée des arts décoratifs, Paris

BABY FACED c.1860

French company Jumeau continues the evolution of the doll, making them more childlike with rosy cheeks and larger eyes. Known as a Bébé or Jumeau doll, this new style becomes ever more popular.

EARLY CHESS 600 CE

Considered to be the earliest version of the game we now call chess, chaturanga emerges in India. Its key contributions to board games are that its pieces each have unique abilities and victory is achieved by capturing one specific piece from your opponent.

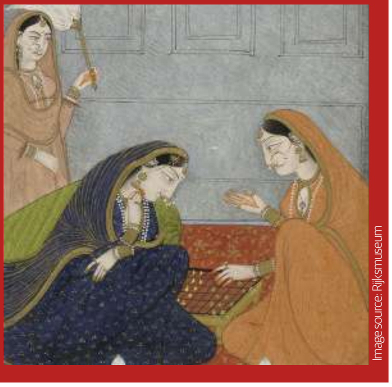


Image source: Rijksmuseum

CONSTRUCTION TOYS

1838

The link between education and toys continues to be explored, especially with young children. Having observed children at play, German educator Friedrich Froebel develops a set of wooden toys with a focus on encouraging attempts at construction.

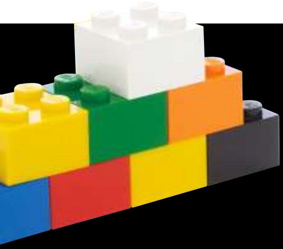
Image source: wiki/Kippelboy

Friedrich Froebel also came up with the concept of the kindergarten

$100 million worth of *Star Wars* toys were sold between 1977 and 1978

A NEW FORCE 1977

Tying into the release of *Star Wars* in 1977, Kenner launches a range of action figures of its main characters. Due to the oil crisis, these are smaller figures than the G.I. Joe dolls of the past and with less articulation. But they become a massive hit, establishing a link between summer blockbusters and kids' toys.



BUILDING BRICKS 1949

Based on an English design by a company called Kiddicraft (with its blessing), a Danish company creates its own Automatic Binding Brick, later to be synonymous with the company's name, LEGO.

Image source: wiki/JGKlein

DOMESTIC MIMICRY 1963

Combining play with the functionality of actually being able to bake something, the Easy-Bake Oven is launched and makes food prep accessible for kids.

INGENIOUS PUZZLE 1979

Developed by Hungarian Erno Rubik as an engineering experiment around 1975, the Magic Cube launches, later to be renamed the Rubik's Cube. It becomes a global sensation.

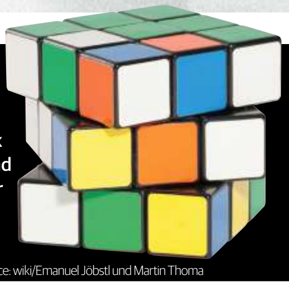


Image source: wiki/Emanuel Jöbstl und Martin Thoma

1916

1963

LINKING TOGETHER 1916

Lincoln Logs mark another step forward for construction toys as John Lloyd Wright develops a toy that allows the finished structure to be played with.

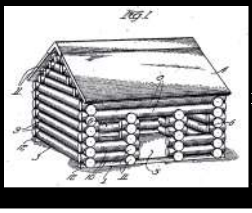


Image source: wiki/ Lloyd Wright John

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE 1984

Based on a robot car toy line by Takara Toys, Hasbro creates the Transformers, with character backstories developed by Marvel Comics, and launches a TV show to support the new product line.

FASHION FORWARD 1959

Inspired by watching her daughter play with paper dolls of grown-up women, Mattel co-founder Ruth Handler develops a new doll with fashion foremost in her mind. Barbara Millicent Roberts, aka Barbie, is born in 1959 with a look that mimics the big Hollywood stars of the time like Elizabeth Taylor and Marilyn Monroe.

IT'S SLINKY! 1943

While trying to come up with a device to stabilise equipment at sea, engineer Richard James apparently knocks some prototype springs off a shelf and watches as they 'walk' down rather than clattering to the floor. With his wife Betty, they develop them into a novelty toy.

3x © Getty Images

Play-Doh was also invented accidentally, in an attempt to develop a wallpaper cleaner

A DOLL'S HOUSE

Europe
19th century

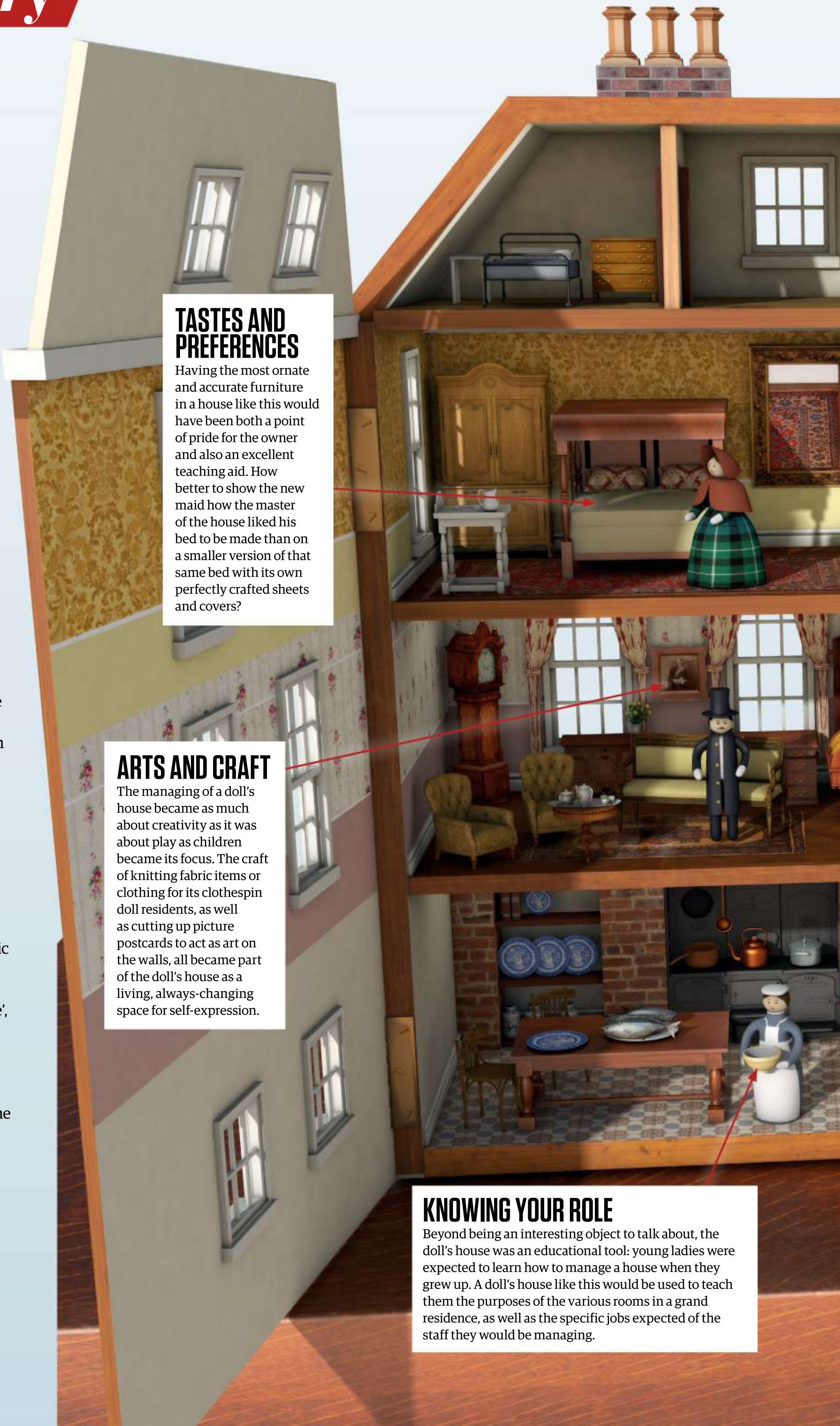
The doll's house is surely one of the quintessential examples of what a toy means to us today, but it was not always this way. While the furnishing and customisation of a doll's house remains a hobby for some grown ups today, they were originally the exclusive domain of adults before they were played with by children.

The origins of the doll's house can be traced back to what the Germans called a Wunderkammer or 'Cabinet of Curiosities' in the 17th century. In its earliest incarnation the 'cabinet' was actually an entire room rather than a piece of furniture, like a small museum full of trinkets and curiosities from around the world. These rooms were so popular that wealthy people began to put together collections of their own and place them in a more traditional cabinet for viewing.

At some point this began to evolve into the dockenhaus, or miniature house, that was designed to look like a residence on the outside but would be filled with miniature items, although it would not necessarily mimic a house's interior.

The following century brought new innovations and the arrival of the 'baby house', which would be a direct replica of a wealthy lady's home. Even at this point the house was an ornate piece of furniture rather than a toy. A great example of this is the Petronella Oortman doll's house that can be viewed at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam (and online).

It was at this point that the houses started being used not just as a conversation piece but as an educational tool for wealthy ladies to teach their daughters and new staff how a house should be run without the need for literacy. In the years that followed this connection between the doll's house and children became more about play, evolving into what we know today.



TASTES AND PREFERENCES

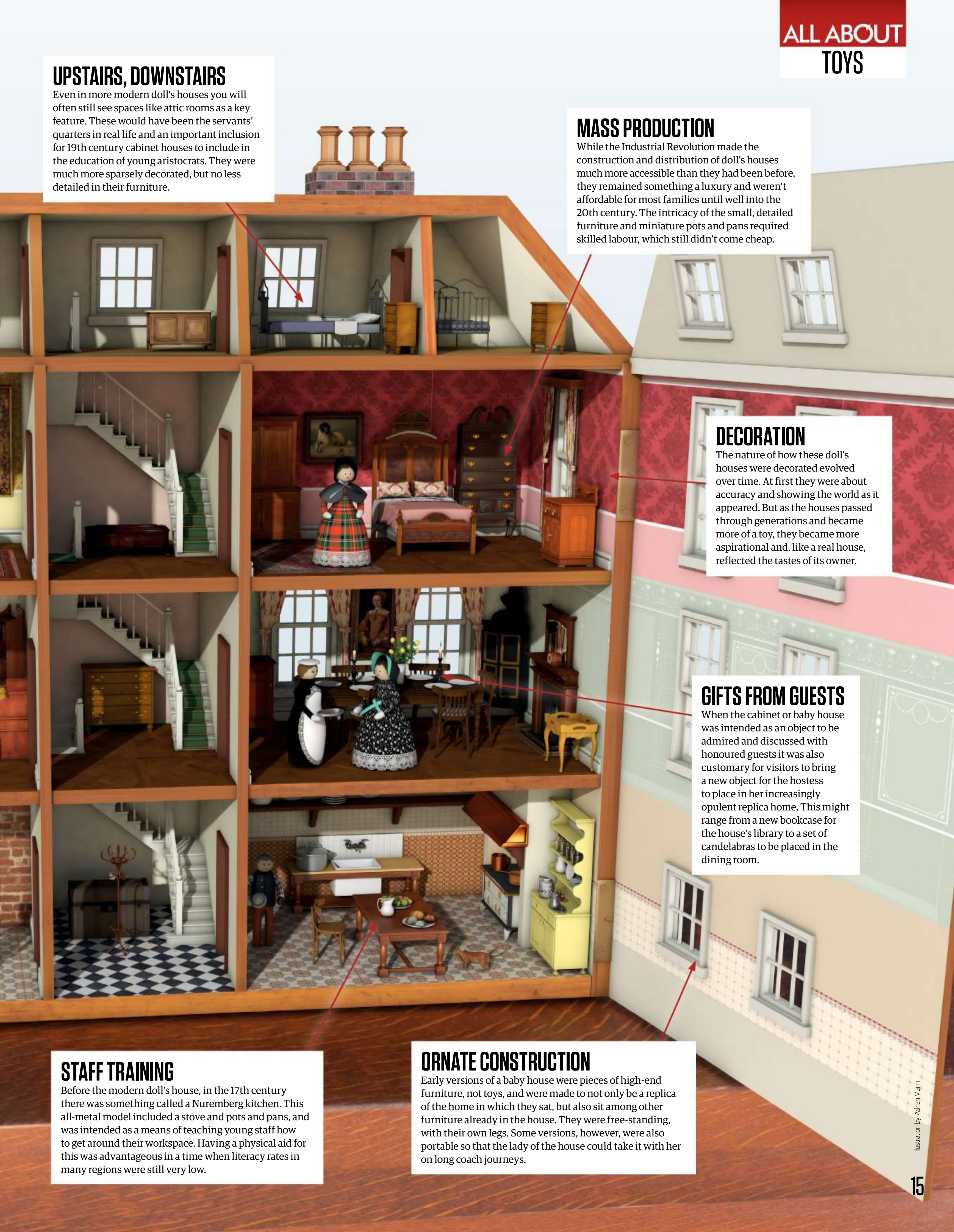
Having the most ornate and accurate furniture in a house like this would have been both a point of pride for the owner and also an excellent teaching aid. How better to show the new maid how the master of the house liked his bed to be made than on a smaller version of that same bed with its own perfectly crafted sheets and covers?

ARTS AND CRAFT

The managing of a doll's house became as much about creativity as it was about play as children became its focus. The craft of knitting fabric items or clothing for its clothespin doll residents, as well as cutting up picture postcards to act as art on the walls, all became part of the doll's house as a living, always-changing space for self-expression.

KNOWING YOUR ROLE

Beyond being an interesting object to talk about, the doll's house was an educational tool: young ladies were expected to learn how to manage a house when they grew up. A doll's house like this would be used to teach them the purposes of the various rooms in a grand residence, as well as the specific jobs expected of the staff they would be managing.



UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS

Even in more modern doll's houses you will often still see spaces like attic rooms as a key feature. These would have been the servants' quarters in real life and an important inclusion for 19th century cabinet houses to include in the education of young aristocrats. They were much more sparsely decorated, but no less detailed in their furniture.

MASS PRODUCTION

While the Industrial Revolution made the construction and distribution of doll's houses much more accessible than they had been before, they remained something a luxury and weren't affordable for most families until well into the 20th century. The intricacy of the small, detailed furniture and miniature pots and pans required skilled labour, which still didn't come cheap.

DECORATION

The nature of how these doll's houses were decorated evolved over time. At first they were about accuracy and showing the world as it appeared. But as the houses passed through generations and became more of a toy, they became more aspirational and, like a real house, reflected the tastes of its owner.

GIFTS FROM GUESTS

When the cabinet or baby house was intended as an object to be admired and discussed with honoured guests it was also customary for visitors to bring a new object for the hostess to place in her increasingly opulent replica home. This might range from a new bookcase for the house's library to a set of candelabras to be placed in the dining room.

STAFF TRAINING

Before the modern doll's house, in the 17th century there was something called a Nuremberg kitchen. This all-metal model included a stove and pots and pans, and was intended as a means of teaching young staff how to get around their workspace. Having a physical aid for this was advantageous in a time when literacy rates in many regions were still very low.

ORNATE CONSTRUCTION

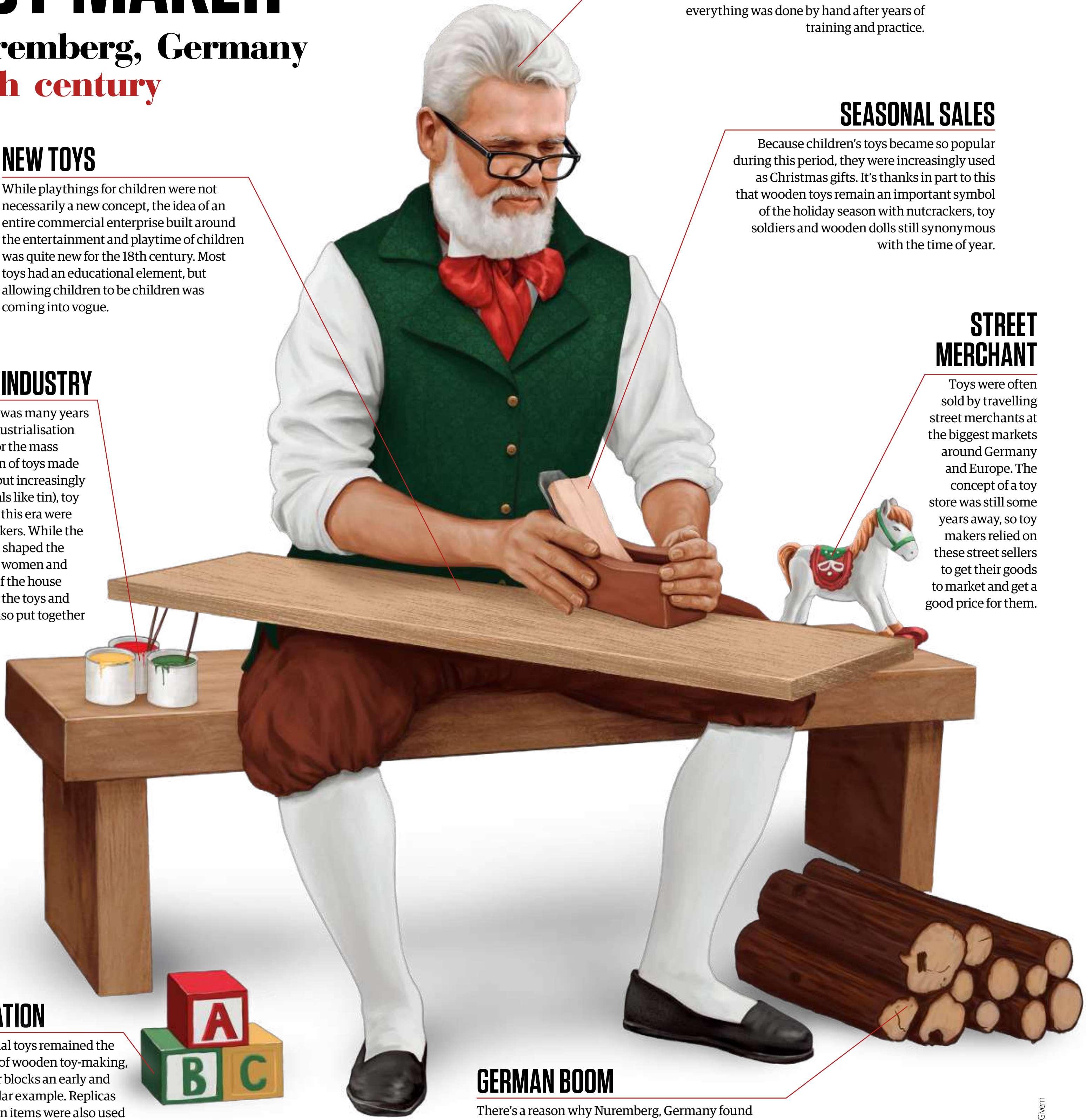
Early versions of a baby house were pieces of high-end furniture, not toys, and were made to not only be a replica of the home in which they sat, but also sit among other furniture already in the house. They were free-standing, with their own legs. Some versions, however, were also portable so that the lady of the house could take it with her on long coach journeys.

Illustration by: Adrian Mann

TOY MAKER

Nuremberg, Germany

18th century



AGE AND WISDOM

The carpentry and joinery skills required for the fine detail work of wooden toys in this era took many years for toy makers to develop. At the scale of a small wooden doll or horse, everything was done by hand after years of training and practice.

NEW TOYS

While playthings for children were not necessarily a new concept, the idea of an entire commercial enterprise built around the entertainment and playtime of children was quite new for the 18th century. Most toys had an educational element, but allowing children to be children was coming into vogue.

SEASONAL SALES

Because children's toys became so popular during this period, they were increasingly used as Christmas gifts. It's thanks in part to this that wooden toys remain an important symbol of the holiday season with nutcrackers, toy soldiers and wooden dolls still synonymous with the time of year.

STREET MERCHANT

Toys were often sold by travelling street merchants at the biggest markets around Germany and Europe. The concept of a toy store was still some years away, so toy makers relied on these street sellers to get their goods to market and get a good price for them.

HOME INDUSTRY

Since this was many years before industrialisation allowed for the mass production of toys made of wood (but increasingly from metals like tin), toy makers in this era were home workers. While the adult men shaped the wood, the women and children of the house decorated the toys and perhaps also put together the boxes.

EDUCATION

Educational toys remained the mainstay of wooden toy-making, with letter blocks an early and still-popular example. Replicas of common items were also used as both toys and educational tools for imparting important lessons to children learning to read, as well as delineating expected gender roles.

GERMAN BOOM

There's a reason why Nuremberg, Germany found itself the heart of Europe's toy-making trade in the 18th century – the Black Forest. The ready supply of both hard and soft wood from the nearby forest region gave Nuremberg an immense advantage. The Ore Mountains to the north-east enjoyed a similar boom.

Illustration by: Kevin McGivern

Historical Treasures

PANDORA DOLL

Dressing to impress with one of the world's oldest toys

Britain and America, c.1748

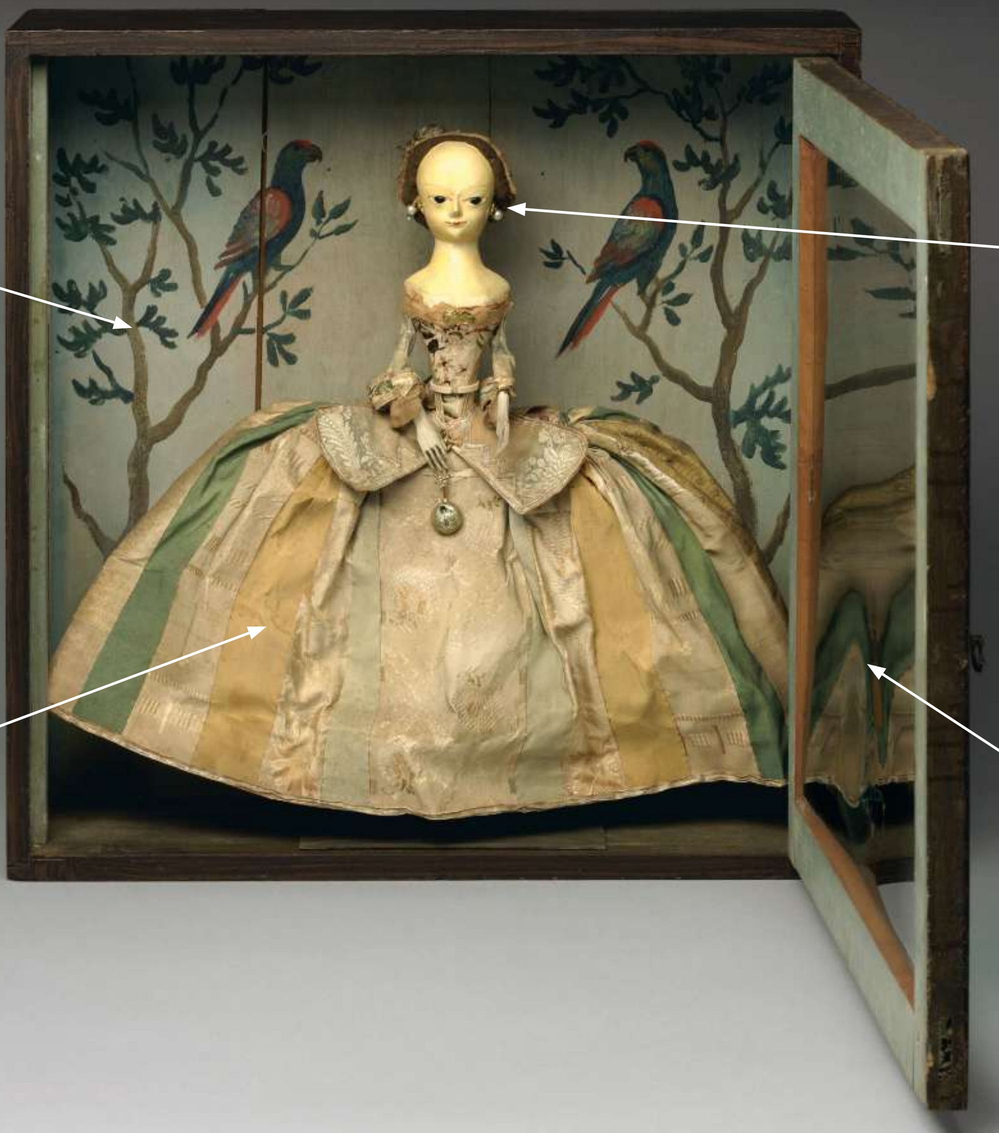
Dolls have a rich and fascinating history that dates back to at least 2,000 BCE and stretches across the globe. Although they've been played with as toys for centuries, dolls were also used as grave goods and for ritual purposes: girls in ancient Greece and Rome would offer their childhood dolls to the goddesses upon marriage, while boys dedicated theirs to the gods once they reached puberty.

Wooden paddle dolls found in Egyptian graves are believed to have a religious meaning, as well as representing fertility and ensuring the eternal rebirth of the dead. Jointed dolls with moveable limbs date back to at least the 4th or 5th century BCE, and it has been suggested that some of these dolls, too fragile to play with, were used as charms to ward off evil.

In the ancient world dolls were created from a variety of materials including clay, wood, terracotta, wax, bone and cloth. They were usually purchased from artisans or made at home, and were sometimes completed with clothing and shoes. Doll production first developed in the Middle Ages, most notably in Nuremberg, which became the centre for doll-making by the end of the 17th century.

During the 18th century, dolls such as the one shown here became a popular form of fashion advertising. These fashion dolls, known as Pandora dolls, were particularly associated with Paris and Rose Bertin, dressmaker to Marie Antoinette. Bertin would send dolls to the queen's sisters and mother dressed up in the latest fashion trends for them to see. Other miniature and life-sized Pandora dolls produced in France, the fashion capital of the world, were circulated around the globe.

Pandora dolls were eventually overtaken by the arrival of fashion magazines in the 19th century, and at the same time porcelain and paper dolls were being produced. Although dolls were traditionally expensive, new production methods and cheaper materials introduced after WWII led to a boom in doll production, making them available for all children. In 1959 the now-iconic plastic Barbie doll was released the US, and soon became popular all over the world.



SAFE AND SOUND

This doll fits inside a shadow box complete with a delicately painted interior, which was created in America to protect the doll when it was not being played with. The glass window also allowed the doll to be displayed.

TIMELESS ELEGANCE

There's a lot of attention to detail with this doll - under the skirt there are two petticoats and shoes made from metallic ribbon. The doll also wears pearl earrings and a watch, and the hair is made from real human hair.

DELICATE MATERIALS

The doll's dress has been fashioned out of narrow panels of silk, which were likely scraps of dressmaker's fabric. This style of dress was popular during the 18th century, with women wearing panniers to make the skirt wide at the sides but leaving the front and back rather flat.

FASHION STATEMENT

Made from wood, paint, glass and silk, this doll was made in Britain and sent to the American colonies. While it was likely a child's toy, this doll was also an advertisement for the latest fashion trends at the time.

Image source: Metropolitan Museum of Art

Hall of Fame

ICONIC TOYS

Ten must-have playthings from the 20th century

Hornby trains

UK, 1920

Inventor Frank Hornby patented his model construction toy 'Mechanics Made Easy' before establishing his Meccano company in 1907. He produced the first Hornby trains in 1920 and released the clockwork 0 gauge locomotive, which was an instant hit. This was followed by the Hornby Dublo range in 1938, available in both clockwork and electric sets. While the company has undergone various changes over the decades, Hornby has remained one of the world's most prolific and iconic manufacturers of model railways.

HORNBY TRAINS
L M S
L M S
SHELL

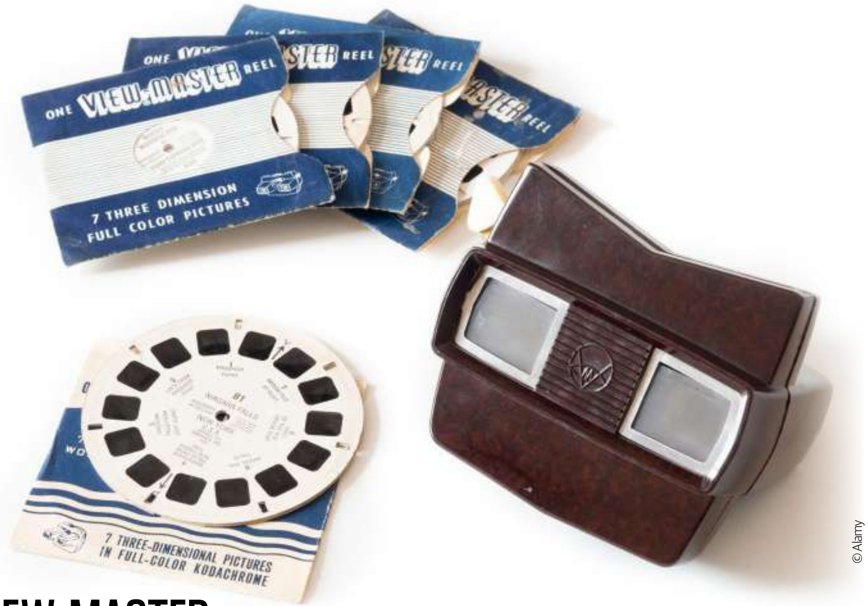
MAGIC Etch A Sketch SCREEN

André Cassagnes originally called his toy L'Écran Magique, which means 'The Magic Screen' in English

ETCH A SKETCH FRANCE, 1960

French electrician André Cassagnes created this famous mechanical drawing toy, which involves a mixture of aluminium powder and tiny beads that are held to the inside of the plastic screen using static charges. A stylus attached to vertical and horizontal rods controlled by two knobs allows the user to draw images. Cassagnes introduced his prototype at the International Toy Fair in Nuremberg in 1959, where it caught the attention of the Ohio Art Company, which invested $25,000 in its development. Renamed the Etch A Sketch, by Christmas 1960 kids everywhere were desperate for one.

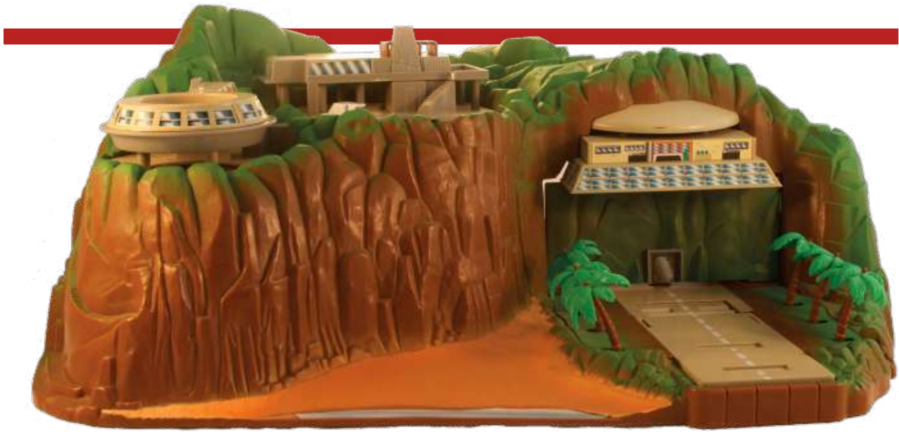
7x © Getty Images


ONE VIEW-MASTER REEL
7 THREE DIMENSION FULL COLOR PICTURES
7 THREE-DIMENSIONAL PICTURES IN FULL-COLOR KODACHROME

© Alamy

VIEW-MASTER USA, 1939

The View-Master was born from the partnership between Harold Graves, president of Sawyer's Photographic Services, and keen photographer William Gruber, who had created a rig for developing stereo photographs. They presented the View-Master, a hand-held device that could view 3D colour slides, at the 1939 New York World's Fair and sold it in speciality photography stores. Sawyer's bought out its main competitor in 1951 and acquired the licensing rights for Walt Disney Studios, with the View-Master becoming a popular children's toy.



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TRACY ISLAND UK, 1992

Thanks to re-runs of the 1960s television series *Thunderbirds* on BBC2 in 1992, there was a surge in demand for Thunderbird toys, and in particular the Tracy Island playset. The subsequent shortages in shops meant that many parents couldn't get their hands on the coveted toy for Christmas. TV programme *Blue Peter* even demonstrated how to make a home-made version using household items such as cardboard boxes, yoghurt pots and toilet roll tubes.

Slinky USA, 1945

Did you know that the Slinky was invented by accident? Navy mechanical engineer Richard James was developing springs to keep equipment safe on ships when he accidentally knocked one over, watching as it 'walked' down instead of falling. Inspired to develop a children's toy, James bought a coil-winding machine to produce the springs with his wife, Betty, picking the name 'Slinky'. James struggled to get his product noticed until Gimbles, a Philadelphia department store, let him demonstrate it during Christmas 1945. The couple sold all 400 of the Slinkys they'd made, and to date over 300 million of them have been sold.

Ages 4 and up
STAR WARS
Luke Skywalker
Kenner

STAR WARS FIGURINES

USA, 1978

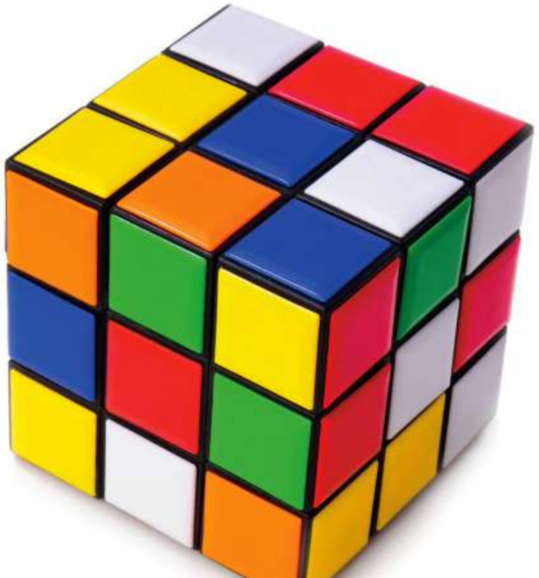
Tasked by George Lucas to produce toys for his first *Star Wars* film, toy manufacturer Kenner was unconvinced that the products would be successful, and the company was unprepared for the huge demand during the 1977 holiday season. Kenner was forced to sell mail-away 'early bird' boxes, with the first four figurines – Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, Chewbacca and R2-D2 – finally sent to customers in early 1978. *Star Wars* remains one of the biggest movie merchandising empires in the world.

LEGO

Denmark, 1958

The name LEGO is an portmanteau of the Danish words 'leg godt', which means 'play well'

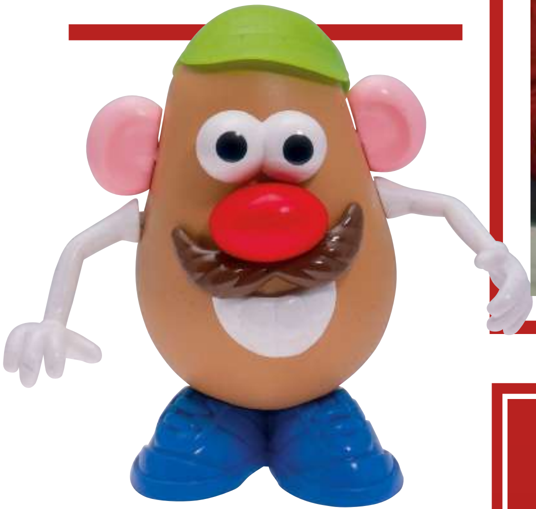
The LEGO brick was developed by Godtfred Kirk Christiansen, whose father had founded the LEGO toy company in 1932, which produced wooden toys. Although other toy building bricks had already been created, Christiansen's design was different because each brick featured tubes and studs that acted as a locking system, making it easier to stack them together. Launched in 1958, the LEGO bricks allowed girls and boys to be as creative as they wanted to be, with endless building possibilities. The LEGO range has greatly expanded over the last six decades, and today the Danish company is one of the biggest toy-makers in the world.



RUBIK'S CUBE

HUNGARY, 1977

Professor Ernõ Rubik created the first prototype of his 'Magic Cube', a mechanical puzzle, in 1974. By 1977 it was being manufactured in small batches and sold in Hungary. Two years later the puzzle was demonstrated at various international toy fairs, where it caught the attention of the Ideal Toy Company. Renamed the Rubik's Cube, it was launched globally in 1980, becoming one of the most popular toys of the decade and beyond. To date over 350 million have been sold.



MR POTATO HEAD

USA, 1952

Mr Potato Head was created by George Lerner, who produced a set of silly face parts that could be stuck to potatoes or other vegetables. Hasbro bought his creation in 1952 and Mr Potato Head became the first toy to be advertised on television, leading to around $4 million in sales. He was later joined by family members including Mrs Potato Head, and in 1964 a plastic potato was included in the kit so that a real potato was no longer needed. The toy was propelled to fame again in the 1990s with Disney Pixar's *Toy Story* film series.

Image source: wiki/ Tim Evanson

Teddy bears

USA, 1903

Michtom is said to have written to President Roosevelt and gained his permission to use his name for the bear

The first 'Teddy's bear' was created by businessman Morris Michtom and his wife, Rose, and named after President Roosevelt. They were inspired after seeing a political cartoon depicting the story of Roosevelt's refusal to shoot a bear that had been tied to a tree by his assistants during a hunting trip – the president had denounced it as unsportsmanlike. At the same time, a German company called Steiff was also making its own stuffed bear that was quickly mass-produced, becoming popular with adults and children alike. The teddy bear remains one of the world's most beloved toys.

Q&A with...

PROF. DR. KARIN FALKENBERG

The director of the Nuremberg Toy Museum explains why the study of toys reveals so much about society

Could you tell us about the history of toy-making in Nuremberg?
Nuremberg, as a city of toys, looks back on more than 600 years of tradition. As early as the 14th century, doll makers fashioned figures from clay and dolls from wood. In the 16th and 17th centuries, Nuremberg craftsmen produced elaborate dolls' houses and mechanical metal toys. Dolls' kitchens, which enjoyed popularity for many centuries, go back to the 'Nuremberg Kitchen', produced in various local craftsmen's workshops. Starting in the second half of the 18th century, important manufacturers, both in Nuremberg and in neighbouring Fürth, set standards in the production of tin and pewter figures.

Prof. Dr. Karin Falkenberg is director of the Nuremberg Toy Museum, where she has worked since 2014. The museum's history dates back 600 years and it has a collection of 87,000 objects, only a fraction of which is exhibited.

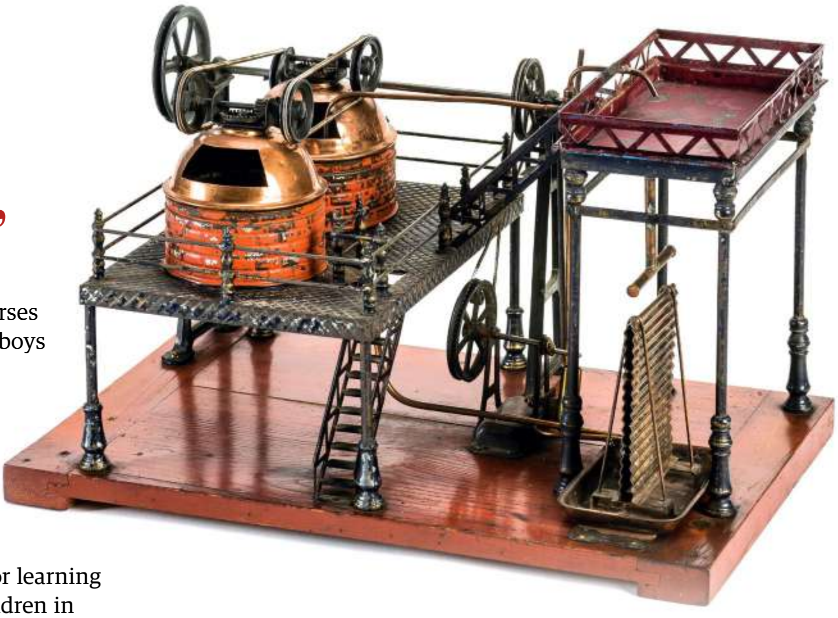
What impact did industrialisation have on the region's toy makers?
Beginning in the last third of the 19th century, mechanical tin-plate toys from Nuremberg and Fürth dominated the world market. Nuremberg's toy production, with its focus on export, had its heyday between 1900 and 1914. Between the World Wars, the larger toy factories expanded, increasingly ousting smaller companies. In spite of the profound structural changes of the past decades, the Nuremberg region remains an important German centre of toy production. In addition, the International Toy Fair, held here for the first time in 1950, shows that Nuremberg continues to occupy a very special place on the toy map.

2
G.E. 255
METZELER CORD
MADE IN US-ZONE GERMANY

What sort of artefacts does the Nuremberg museum display?
The Toy Museum displays early European toys and wooden toys from Thuringia, the Ore Mountains and Alpine Regions, as well as from Nuremberg, of course. The museum also has artist-designed wooden toys, toy figures, dolls' houses, dolls' kitchens, dolls' shops and stores, teddy bears, optical toys, tin-plate toys, steam engines, toy railways, ships and aeroplanes, street vehicles, mechanical figures, children's stoves, prams and cradles, children's vehicles, toy horses, outdoor playing things, and toys of the last decades of the 20th century.

Could you tell us about Lydia and Paul Bayer and their contribution to the museum?
The Nuremberg Toy Museum is based on the collection of Lydia (1897-1961) and Paul Bayer (1896-1982). The couple started collecting toys in the 1920s. Their children Paul (1926-43) and Lydia (1929-2000) grew up around historic toys. In 1962, their daughter, as a young art historian, expanded her parents' collection to a private museum in Würzburg. In 1966, this collection was taken over by the City of Nuremberg and in 1971 the collection found its home in Karlstraße 13, a house with a Renaissance façade dating back to around 1610. With Dr Lydia Bayer as its director, the Toy Museum developed into an extraordinarily successful, internationally renowned museum. Presently, about 4,000 objects (four per cent of the entire collection) are exhibited.

Why do you think toys are important as historical artefacts?
People of all epochs and cultures used toys to while away the time, for developing manual and intellectual skills, or for religious rites and celebrations.



“Toys are great for learning about the changing roles of children throughout history”

Excavations have therefore always unearthed toy objects fashioned from bone, clay, glass or metal. The heritage from the European Middle Ages comprises craft objects such as silver rattles, but mainly simple toys such as wooden spinning tops or marbles and clay figures. Figures of horsemen could be used for recreating tournaments in play, and dolls dressed like grown-up ladies were used to show girls how to dress and how to behave.

Have toys always played the same role in children’s lives?

Toys are scientific sources for exploring the history of our everyday life and for exploring the changes of children’s culture. Toys are generally important for getting to know the world. However, it doesn’t matter if a toy is an expensive and professionally crafted toy or a self-made one. Toys are not innocent: they were and they are being produced to educate children. For example, dolls’ kitchens were produced to show little girls how to cook and hobby horses were produced to prepare little boys for serving in the army.

Can we learn something about the changing role of children in society from the toys that were popular in each era?

Toys are the perfect indicator for learning about the changing roles of children in history and society, as well as learning about the different roles of children in financially different families. In the 18th and 19th centuries, children in farming families played different games and had other toys to play with than children of the working class or children in the upper class. Toys are as different as our everyday life: we have dolls that are made out of corn on the cob – these ‘natural dolls’ were made by farmers’ children. We also have dolls that were made out of porcelain that belonged to children of the upper class. Due to the double shake up of German society in World War I and World War II, in more recent German history the toys that children play with don’t show as many differences in quality and application than in previous eras.

Are there any toys in the museum that you’re especially fond of?

I particularly love the tin-plate toys, which are typical of Nuremberg toy production. They show the technical inventions and the design of the 19th century. Some of these are also mechanical toys that move and make noises. That is amazing and fascinating!

THE NUREMBERG
TOY MUSEUM
IS CURRENTLY CLOSED
DUE TO COVID. VISIT
MUSEUMS.NUERNBERG.DE
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Headshot source: Toy Museum Nuremberg
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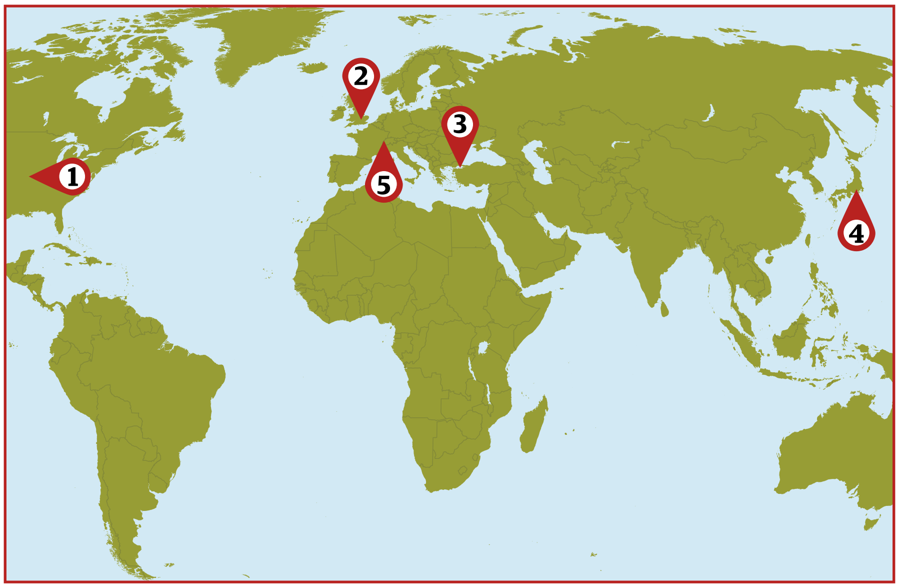
TOY MUSEUMS

Wonderful collections you can enjoy around the world



1 THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TOYS AND MINIATURES

KANSAS CITY, USA

With a vast collection in excess of 86,000 objects, The National Museum Of Toys And Miniatures in Kansas City, Missouri, boasts the world's largest collection of fine-scale miniatures as well as one of the largest collections of historic toys in the United States. That's quite an expansion based on where the museum started back in 1982. Originally the Miniature Museum on the Kansas City University campus was made up of the combined collections of its two founders, Mary Harris Francis and Barbara Hall Marshall. Over the next 30 years it grew from a 698-square-metre exhibition to one covering 3,065-square-metres. Further investment through a public campaign raised over $10 million in 2014, meaning it was able to expand even further with refurbishments to the building and expansions of the collection that saw the museum reopen in its current guise.

Open Wednesday to Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Admission is $8 for adults, $7 for seniors, $5 for six to 17-year-olds and students, and free for the under-fives

The museum won awards for its exhibits in 2016 and 2018

Image source: wiki/Sandover

2 V&A MUSEUM OF CHILDHOOD

LONDON, UK

The museum sits just a short walk away from Bethnal Green station in London

Image source: wiki/FHL2

Originally opened in 1872 as Bethnal Green Museum featuring collections from the Great Exhibition of 1851, it gradually morphed into the V&A Museum Of Childhood that exists today. This process started when curator Arthur Sabin decided to make the museum more child-friendly. Beginning in 1922, he incorporated classrooms and teachers, and worked with Queen Mary to add toys to the museum's collection.

In 1974 it finally rebranded as the V&A Museum Of Childhood and streamlined its collection to only cover this subject with the aid of toy companies, the BBC and the general public. Today it houses 26,000 objects spanning 400 years of children's history, including over 100 incredible doll's houses, prototype toys and everyday items that tell the ever-changing story of children's lives in the UK.

The museum is now preparing to make another leap forward with a major refurbishment project underway that will see the interior of the building completely overhauled and new experiences added to engage children more than ever before.

The museum is currently closed for a major refurbishment, but is scheduled to reopen in 2022

Image source: wiki/Warrrice01

The gorgeous museum building was previously a family residence

③ ISTANBUL TOY MUSEUM

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Built inside a villa, the Istanbul Toy Museum is a wonderfully curious place that should be enjoyed as much for its setting as its content. It's a private museum and was put together by poet and author Sunay Akin in 2005. He was inspired to create a toy museum having visited the famous example in Nuremberg, Germany. Akin began buying up antique toys in 1990 and gradually built up a collection to be housed in his family's residence.

The collection came together over 15 years and now includes 4,000 items in the museum (of a total exceeding 7,000), the oldest of which is a French-made miniature violin from 1817. There are also fine examples of tin toys from Germany, porcelain dolls and much more.

But, as we mentioned, the museum's layout is as interesting as what's on display, with each area themed after its items and put together by a professional stage designer. For example, space-related toys hang among a field of stars while the train sets are place in a real train compartment.

The Istanbul Toy Museum has inspired a number of other similar collections to pop up in other cities around Turkey, including Antalya, Gaziantep and Canik to name just a few.

Open from 9:30am to 6pm (closed on Mondays). Admission is 18 TL for adults, 12 TL for children and seniors, and entry is free for the under-threes and disabled.

④ YOKOHAMA MUSEUM OF TIN TOYS

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN

This is probably the smallest of the museums that we've picked out, but it's no less spectacular in what it has to offer toy enthusiasts. This dedicated museum is interested in the history of tin toys made between the 1890s and 1960s, mostly in Japan, but also from other countries around the world. The collection was put together by an enthusiast and founder of the museum, Teruhisa Kitahara, who started acquiring tin toys in 1973 before opening up a space for people to view them in 1986. He has also written several books on vintage toys. Located in a small house in Yokohama, there's something instantly charming about this museum that reveals itself as an Aladdin's Cave crammed with tin toy wonders once you step inside. The collection here features 3,000 items and also offers original toys for members of its Toys Club. Objects like a mini railroad and spinning acrobats are given the room to come alive and be fully appreciated by visitors, whatever their age.

Some of the toys here are in amazing condition for their age

© Getty Images

Open all week from 9:30am to 6pm (7pm on weekends). Admission costs 200 yen for adults and 100 yen for children.

The castle is unsurprisingly a popular location for events as well as a museum

Image source: wiki/MSjeu

⑤ SWISS MUSEUM OF GAMES

LA TOUR-DE-PEILZ, SWITZERLAND

No museum on this list can compare to the Swiss Museum Of Games in terms of location thanks to the stunning castle of La Tour-de-Peilz that it calls home. The castle dates back to the 13th century and was built by the counts of Savoy as a fortress, and also acted as an observation and customs post for Lake Geneva on which it sits. The castle was made a historic monument in 1973 and was bought by the Swiss government in 1979. The Museum Of Games took up residence on the first and second floors back in 1987.

The exhibits are an exhaustive history of games, from the earliest known examples to recognisably modern board games. From marbles to dice and playing cards to bowling, it's a fascinating collection. The permanent exhibits have been sourced from all around the world and include some incredible artefacts. A notable special collection is the games of WWII, featuring items from before and during the war. Some show the way in which the conflict had an influence on the games that were played, particularly in Europe, giving visitors an insight into how people chose to take their minds off the chaotic events that were unfolding around them.

Open Tuesday to Sunday from 11am to 5:30pm. Admission costs 9 CHF for adults, 6 CHF for seniors and students, 3 CHF for children aged six to 16, and is free for the under-sixes.

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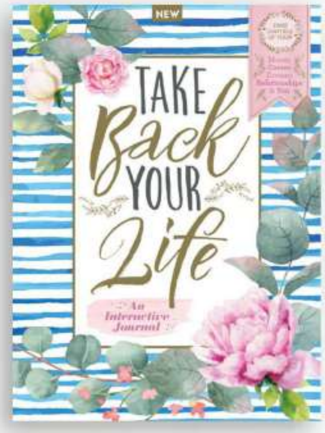
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BLOODY RISE OF CLEOPATRA

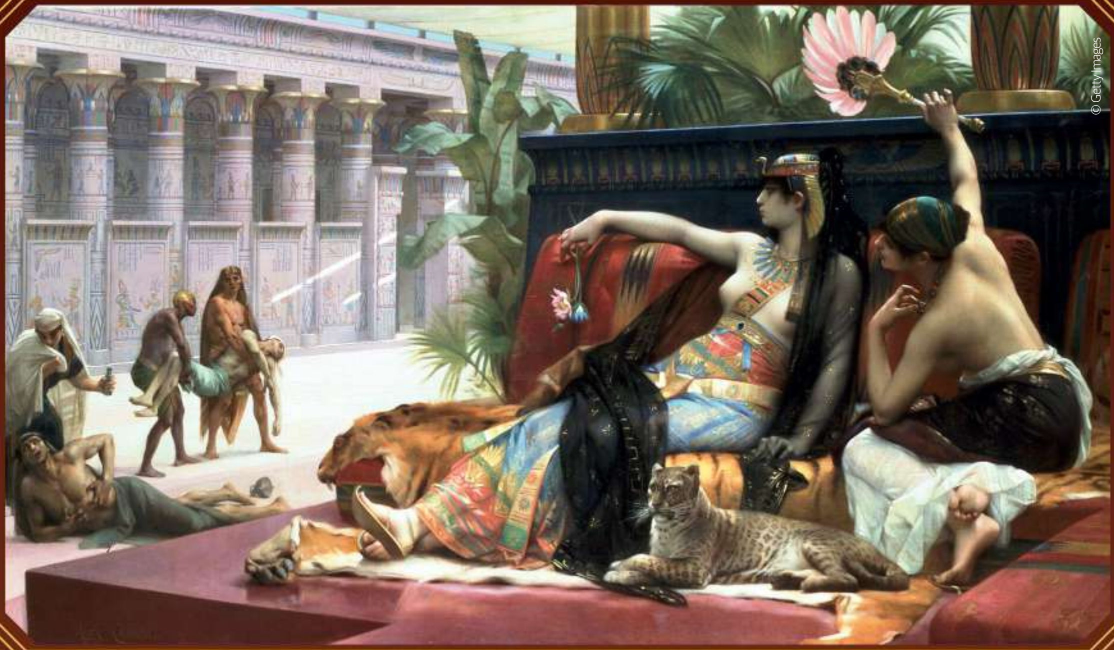
How Egypt's last pharaoh betrayed her brothers to seize the throne

Written by Jessica Leggett

Cleopatra VII was one of the most powerful female rulers of the ancient world, and her beauty, charisma and love affairs have remained a source of fascination for over 2,000 years. She has been immortalised countless times in popular culture as a femme fatale, a tragic heroine and a cold-blooded, murderous queen whose reign came to a deadly end. But did you know her rise to power was just as dramatic?

The one thing to bear in mind before exploring Cleopatra's ascent is that, sadly, there is very little evidence about her life that comes from Egypt. Instead, most of the sources that have survived were produced by her enemies, the Romans, who created hostile propaganda that warped and mythologised her story to suit their perspective. As a result, despite extensive research into her life, Cleopatra mostly remains as a mystery to us and a source of constant speculation.

She was born around 69 BCE into Egypt's ruling Ptolemaic dynasty, the daughter of King Ptolemy XII Auletes. It's believed that her mother was Cleopatra V Tryphaena, who was possibly Ptolemy XII's half-sister, but her true identity remains a source of confusion and she is sometimes referred to as Cleopatra VI. Altogether, it's thought that Ptolemy had three daughters, with Cleopatra being his second, and two sons.



© Getty Images

ABOVE Cleopatra had to murder her rivals in order to survive

Although the Ptolemies ruled Egypt, they were actually a Greek dynasty that had been founded by Ptolemy I Soter, a Macedonian general who served under Alexander the Great. Alexander had conquered Egypt in 332 BCE and founded the city of Alexandria, which became the capital of both Egypt and the Hellenistic world, as well as the base of Ptolemy's royal family.

Not only was Alexandria home to a high level of Greek culture, but it also boasted the finest scholars and one of the greatest libraries in the world. As she was born and raised in the capital, Cleopatra would likely have been educated by Greek tutors in the Musaeum, a research institution that also included the library. ▶

Illustration by: Joe Cummings

Even though the details of her life are sparse, it's well-known that Cleopatra was a skilled linguist, speaking several languages. She was the first member of from the Ptolemaic dynasty to read, write and speak Egyptian, as the rest of the Ptolemies had continued to use Greek.

Intelligent from a young age, Cleopatra needed all the advantages at her disposal just to survive in her own family. The Ptolemies had a long history of murdering one another as they fought among themselves to seize power. It was a bloodthirsty dynasty filled with rivalries fuelled by conspiracy and greed. To trust your kin was naive – for a Ptolemy, it was kill or be killed.

Cleopatra learnt this in her formative years during her father's turbulent reign. Ptolemy XII had ascended the throne in around 80 BCE after a civil war that saw the last legitimate members of the dynasty killed. As an illegitimate son of a previous king, Ptolemy IX Soter, Ptolemy XII increasingly relied on Rome to help him maintain his rule. His precarious position was complicated further due to the will of his late uncle, King Ptolemy X, which explicitly stated that if there were no heirs to assume the Ptolemaic throne, then Egypt would belong to Rome.

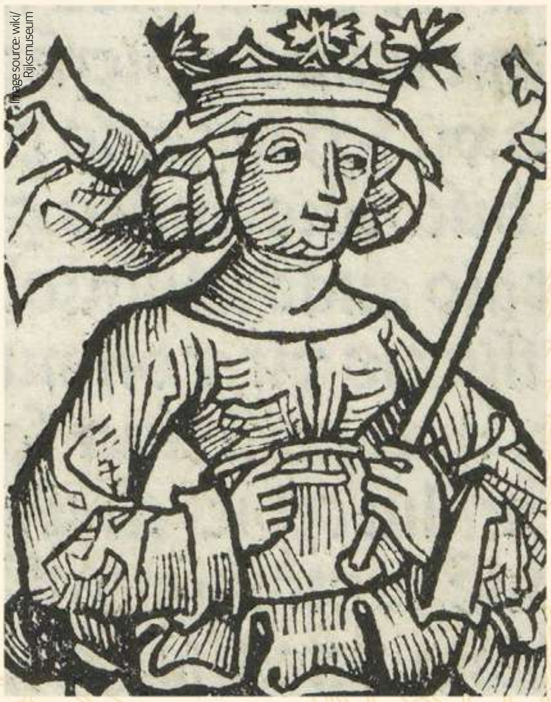
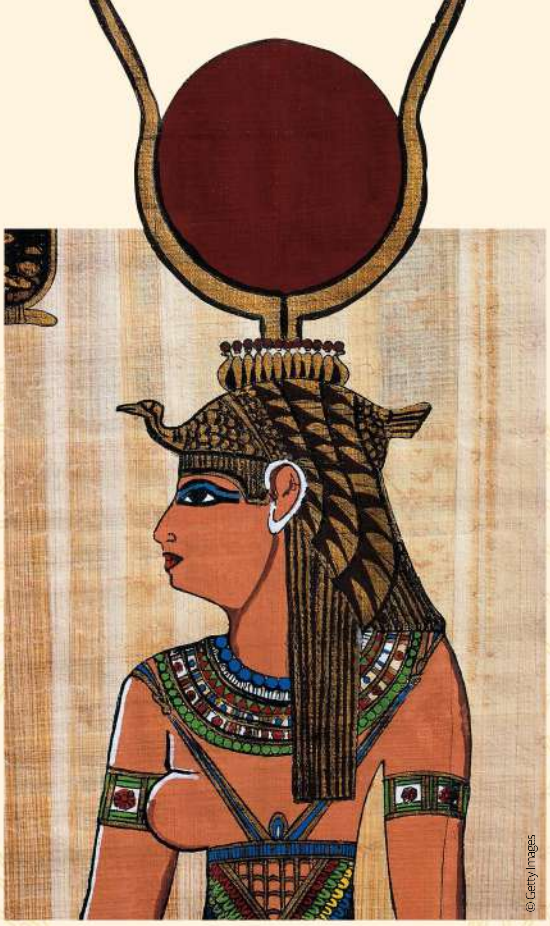


Image source: wiki/ Rijksmuseum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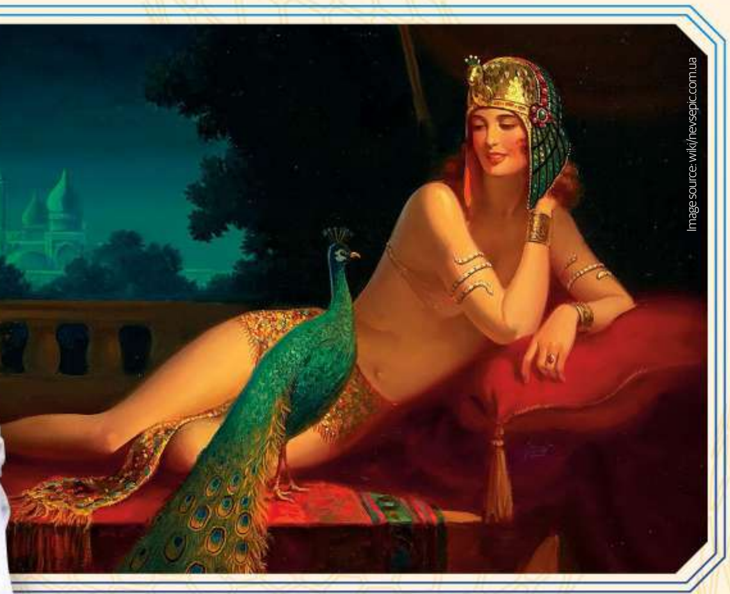


Image source: wiki/nevsepic.com.ua

ABOVE-LEFT This 15th century illustration reimagines Cleopatra as a contemporary ruler

ABOVE-RIGHT An image of Cleopatra VII on papyrus

LEFT Cleopatra has become synonymous with luxury and indulgence

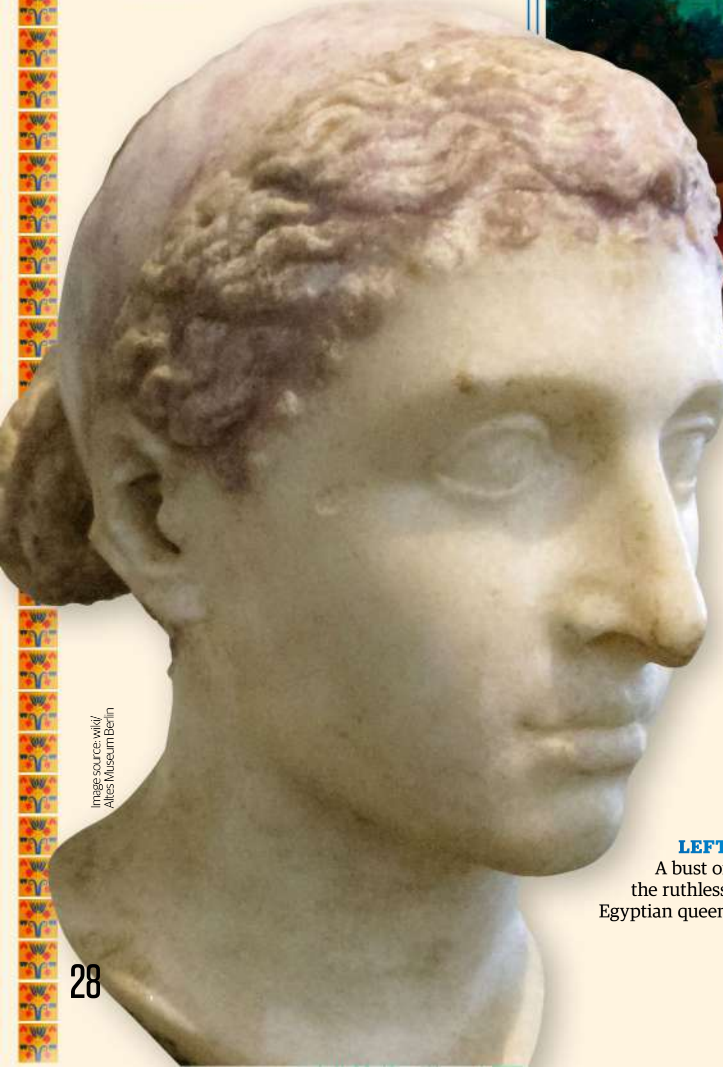


Image source: wiki/ Altes Museum Berlin

LEFT A bust of the ruthless Egyptian queen

To prevent his realm from being invaded and annexed, Ptolemy tried to maintain a good relationship with Rome by pursuing a policy of bribery, raising funds through taxation and loans from wealthy Roman bankers. Consequently, when Cleopatra was born around a decade into her father's reign, Egypt – once a wealthy and prosperous state – was well and truly broke.

The growing discontent and anger among the Alexandrians, who disliked Ptolemy's close links with Rome, exploded when the Romans seized Cyprus in 58 BCE. Cyprus had been ruled by the king's brother – Ptolemy of Cyprus – who had refused to bow down to the Romans and committed suicide instead. Choosing to preserve his relationship with Rome, Ptolemy did not react at all to the annexation or his brother's death, and so he was promptly deposed.

Fleeing to Rome, Ptolemy stayed at the home of general Pompey the Great while his wife, Cleopatra V Tryphaena, and his eldest daughter, Berenice IV, assumed the throne in his absence. Cleopatra V died soon afterwards, possibly killed on Berenice's orders, leaving the latter as sole ruler. Berenice briefly married Seleucus, her cousin and a Seleucid prince, but it wasn't long before the queen had him strangled to death.

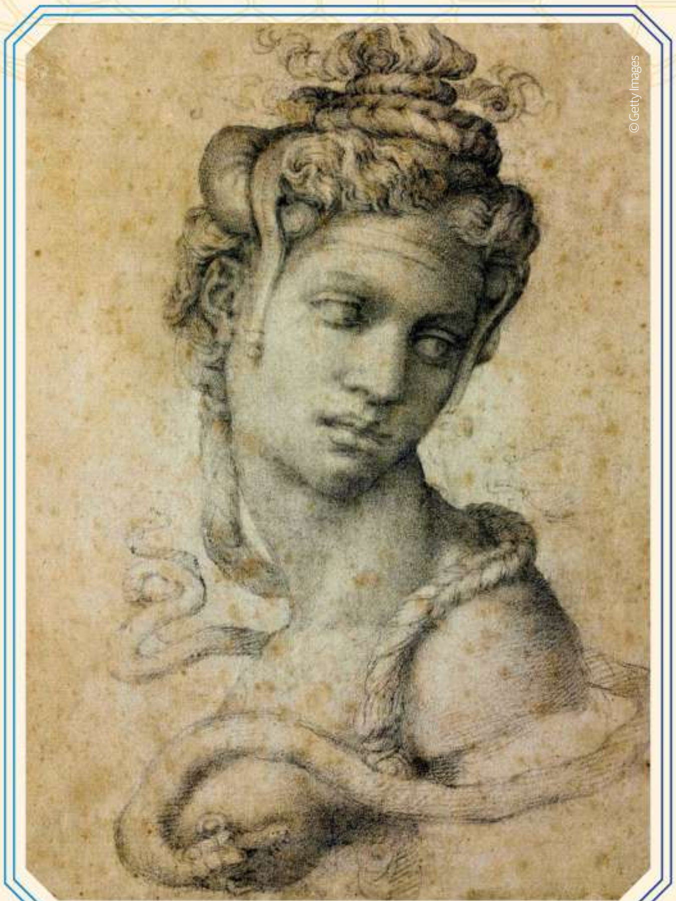
Berenice, who was popular with the Alexandrians, tried to cement her position as queen by sending delegates to Rome to advocate for the legitimacy of her reign. Unfortunately for her, her father had them murdered before they could arrive and plead her case. Ptolemy XII's creditors wanted him returned to the Egyptian throne so that they could recoup the money that they had lent him, but the Romans did not want to launch an invasion.

Instead, Ptolemy resorted to paying Roman general Aulus Gabinius, an ally of Pompey's, to help him invade Egypt and regain his throne from his daughter. In 55 BCE, Gabinius's forces successfully reached Alexandria and stormed the palace, restoring Ptolemy as king, while Berenice and her supporters were captured and executed.

After witnessing all this turmoil, Cleopatra got her first taste of power when her father named her as his co-ruler, which allowed her to prepare herself for her succession to the throne after his death. She was 18 years old when Ptolemy passed away in 51 BCE, leaving his throne to both her and her younger brother, Ptolemy XIII, who was around 10 years old.

The two siblings soon married in the Ptolemaic tradition. For the Ptolemies, it was normal practice to have a co-ruler, usually a brother or sister, to keep power and wealth within the royal family. This was further reinforced with incestuous marriages that were intended to maintain the purity of the Ptolemaic bloodline, a custom that began when Ptolemy II married his full sister, Arsinoe II in around 273 BCE. While the Greeks disapproved of such marriages, it was an Egyptian custom that the dynasty chose to adopt.

> “THE PTOLEMIES HAD A LONG HISTORY OF MURDERING ONE ANOTHER AS MANY OF THEM TRIED TO SEIZE POWER FOR THEMSELVES”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LEFT Even long after her death Cleopatra inspired artists, including some of the greats like Michelangelo

© Alamy

WHAT DID CLEOPATRA REALLY LOOK LIKE?

The burning question historians keep trying to answer

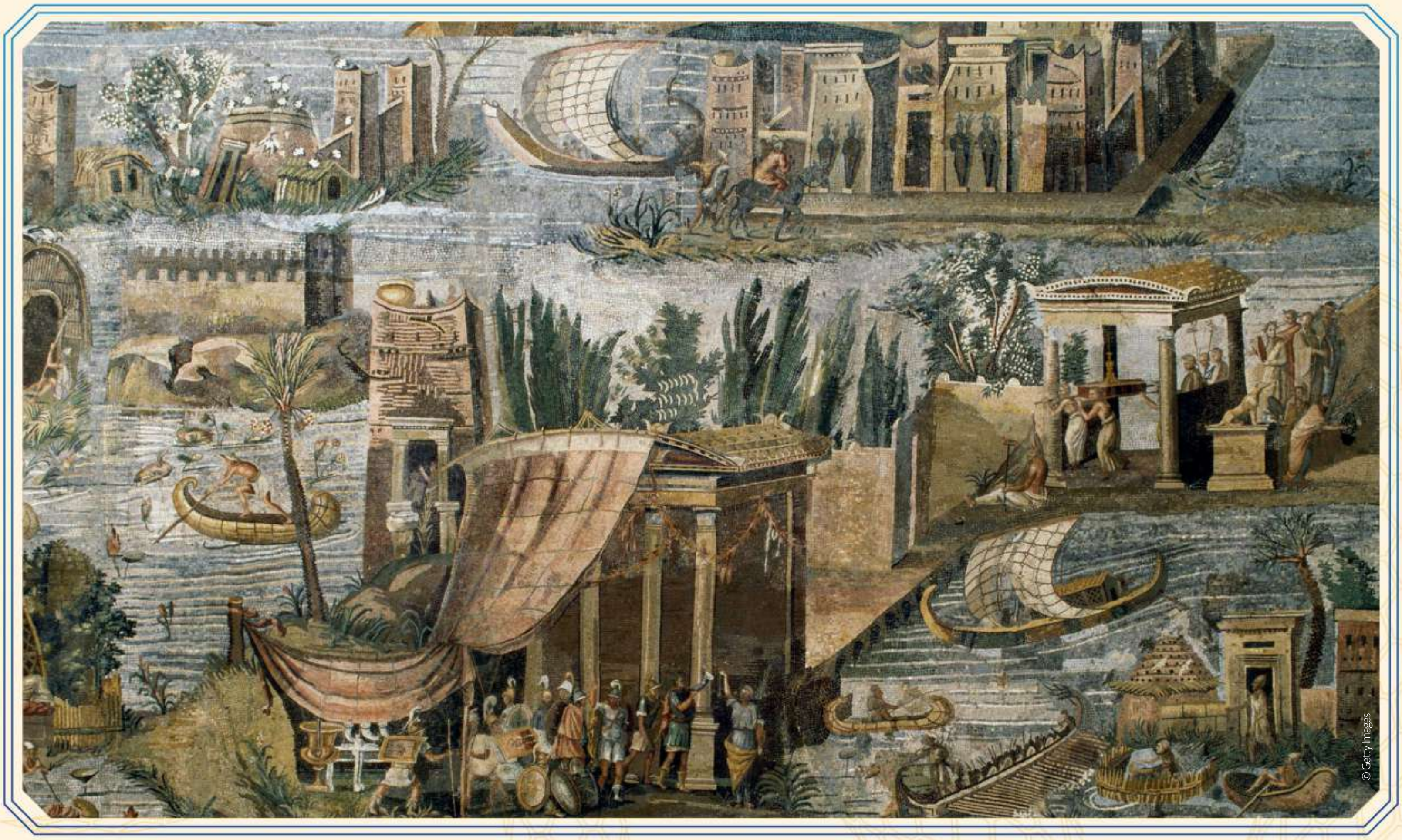
For a historical figure as well-known as Cleopatra, it's odd that we really have no sense of what she looked like. The muse for so many artists, poets and writers over the centuries, the true visage of the last pharaoh of Egypt is muddied by both time and inaccurate repetition.

Thanks to being on the wrong side of the Roman civil war, it's believed that many examples of contemporary portraits of her were destroyed by Octavian, Julius Caesar's heir. What we're left with is around ten coins (approved for distribution by Cleopatra, so questionable in accuracy), a handful of statues (most in very stylised forms, so difficult to judge) and some contemporary accounts of her appearance (mostly contradictory).

But historians continue to pick away to find the truth. What we can be confident in saying is that she was not Egyptian, having been born to the Macedonian Ptolemaic line, but it's also unlikely that she looked like a contemporary Greek. Her family line had lived in Egypt for 250 years, after all.

For our own recreation, we turned to the research of Dr Sally-Ann Ashton, an Egyptologist who worked on a more recent rendering of Cleopatra. Her work, which contributed to a BBC documentary called *Cleopatra: Portrait Of A Killer*, drew from statues and an understanding that she would very likely have had mixed Greek and African heritage.

But is this all a distraction? While her racial background and depiction is of contemporary interest and relevance, the obsession with Cleopatra's looks, whether she was the most attractive woman in the world or ugly, were not that relevant to her ability as a ruler. Much of the debate around her appearance in her own time was to push the conversation away from her keen political acumen; to diminish her legitimacy to rule. It was easier to think of her as a seductress than as a shrewd political operator.


© Getty Images

ABOVE A mosaic of the temples along the River Nile

RIGHT A bust of Cleopatra's father, Ptolemy XII Auletes

When Cleopatra assumed the throne alongside her brother, she found herself faced with the famine and drought that had struck her realm, triggered by poor harvests and the low levels of the River Nile, which had failed to flood properly. As starvation and unrest threatened to grip the country, Cleopatra deftly demonstrated her skills as an administrator, removing the tax burden on her people and ensuring that the food supply was secure, going as far as to open the granaries in Alexandria.

On top of this, Egypt had enormous debts and the economy was in tatters. Cleopatra knew that the religious temples, an extremely powerful part of Egyptian society and economy, as well as a source of great wealth, were the key to sorting out the country's financial troubles. By quickly aligning herself with the temples and reforming the monetary system, Cleopatra was successful in stabilising the economy while also making an effort to stamp out the rampant corruption that had been making the situation worse.

Religion also served another purpose for the new queen. Egyptian pharaohs had long been associated with religion and they were considered to be living gods on Earth – her father had even chosen to identify himself as the Greek god of fertility and wine, Dionysus. To bolster her political power, Cleopatra chose to self-identify as the goddess Isis, presenting herself as a maternal figure who could guide and protect her country.

This was even more crucial considering that Cleopatra, like the rest of her family members, had no desire to share power. An astute and logical politician who was confident in her decision-making, Cleopatra was described by the 10th-century Arab historian Al-Masudi as "a sage, a philosopher who elevated the ranks of scholars... she also wrote books on medicine, charms and cosmetics". She did not feel the need to consult the advisors at court, much to their chagrin, and within months of their joint rule Cleopatra had sidelined Ptolemy XIII and was being identified on official documents as Egypt's sole ruler.

Image source: wiki/Jastrow

Unsurprisingly, given the volatile nature of the Ptolemaic court, there were consequences for Cleopatra's actions. Ptolemy XIII had powerful allies at court, including the three men who acted as his guardians and advisors after the death of his father: his tutors Pothinus and Theodotus of Chios, and Achillas, the commander-in-chief of the Egyptian army. Resenting Cleopatra's power, the men formed a faction against her and, soon enough, the queen found herself embroiled in a civil war against her brother and his supporters.

Despite forming a brief alliance with her other brother, Ptolemy XIV, Cleopatra was deposed and driven from the palace of Alexandria in 49 BCE. By the following ▶

SEVENTH OF HER NAME

Who were the other Cleopatras?

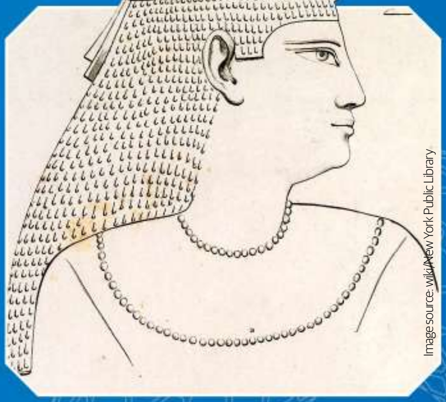


Image source: wiki/New York Public Library

CLEOPATRA I

c.204-176 BCE

The first Cleopatra of the Ptolemy line was actually from Syria, the daughter of Antiochus III. She was married to Ptolemy V Epiphanes in 193 BCE as part of a peace treaty between the two kings. When her husband died in 180 BCE she took sole control of the kingdom as regent for her young son, managing the duelling interests of Syria and Rome.

Image source: wiki/Jastrow

CLEOPATRA II

c.183-116 BCE

Sometimes referred to as Cleopatra II Philometor, meaning 'Mother-loving', Cleopatra II was the daughter of Cleopatra I and like her mother would rule Egypt alone for a period. Having been married to both her brothers (this was not uncommon for the Ptolemy pharaohs) she took over Upper Egypt when Ptolemy VIII was exiled.

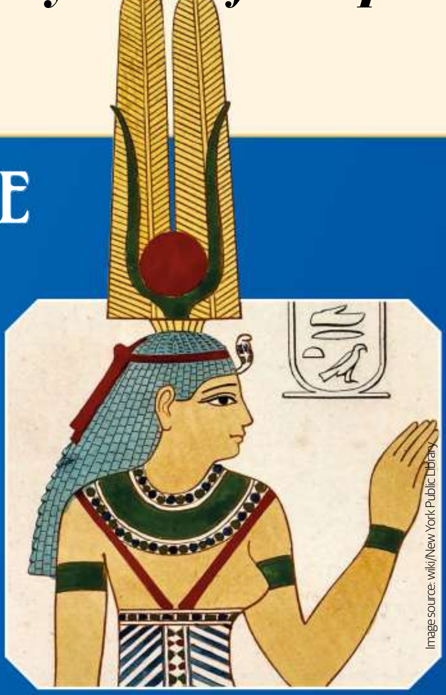


Image source: wiki/New York Public Library

CLEOPATRA III

c.160-101 BCE

The daughter of Cleopatra II got caught up in the machinations of her father and uncle, ultimately having to marry her uncle (also now her stepfather). She sided with her husband when a schism of support emerged in Egypt and retreated to Cyprus. After their return, Cleopatra III acted as co-ruler with a succession of male pharaohs from 116 to 101 BCE.

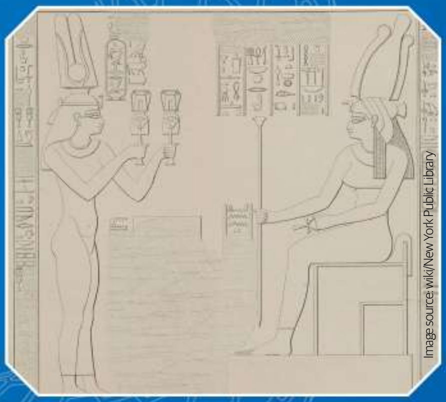


Image source: wiki/New York Public Library

CLEOPATRA IV

c.140-112 BCE

Originally married to her brother Ptolemy IX Philometor Soter II, their mother Cleopatra III forced a divorce when they began to agitate for their mother's overthrow. Cleopatra IV raised an army and offered it to her cousin Antiochus IX Cyzicenus in exchange for his support. She became trapped in Antioch in the ensuing conflict and was executed.

Image source: wiki/Codex

CLEOPATRA V

c.95-57 BCE

The illegitimate daughter of Ptolemy IX Philometor, she married her (also illegitimate) brother Ptolemy XII Auletes in order to bolster their joint claim to the throne in 80 BCE. They depended heavily on the support of Rome in order to maintain their influence. Further facts on Cleopatra V are limited, but she is likely to have been the mother of Cleopatra VII.

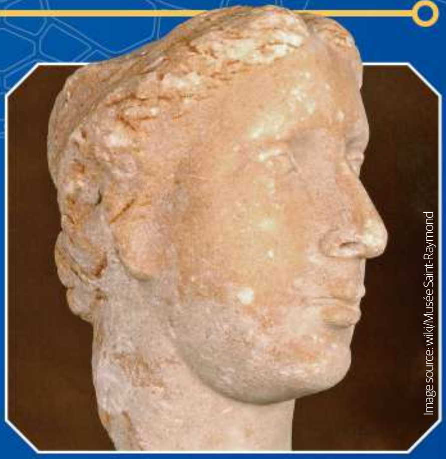


Image source: wiki/Musée Saint-Raymond

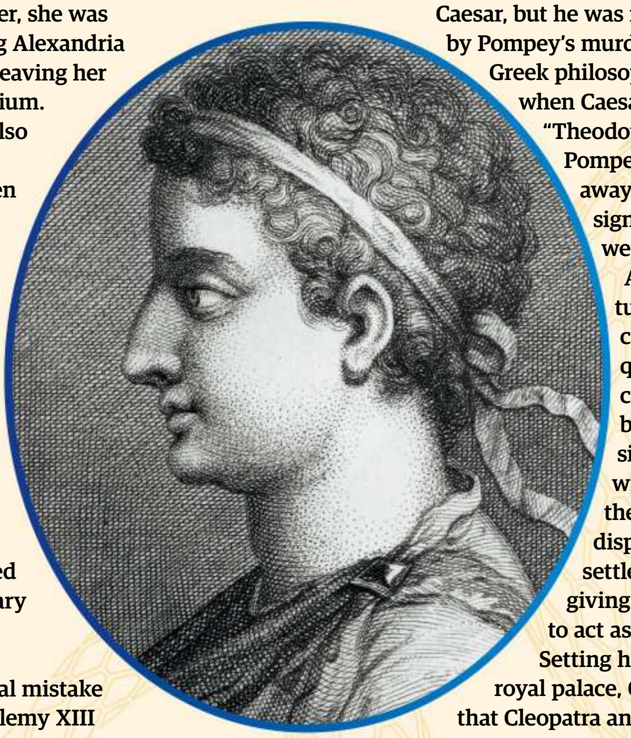
CLEOPATRA VI

c.95-55

The exact identity and lineage of Cleopatra VI is rather confused. It's possible that she was one of the daughters of Cleopatra V and Ptolemy XII Auletes alongside Cleopatra VII and ruled alongside another sister named Berenice IV. It's also been argued that Cleopatra V and VI were the same person. Her true identity is unfortunately lost.

year, she had fled to Syria with her half-sister, Arsinoe IV, where she gathered an army of mercenaries and plotted to invade Egypt. However, she was prevented from reaching Alexandria by her brother's forces, leaving her outside the city of Pelusium.

Amid this, there was also a civil war raging in the Roman Republic between Julius Caesar and his former ally, Pompey, sparked by the Roman senate's rising alarm regarding Caesar's growing power. In 48 BCE, Pompey and his army were defeated by Caesar at the Battle of Pharsalus in Greece. Having enjoyed a good relationship with Ptolemy XII, Pompey fled to Egypt to seek sanctuary with the late king's son, Ptolemy XIII.



ABOVE A portrait of Cleopatra's brother, husband and co-ruler, Ptolemy XIII

This proved to be a fatal mistake for Pompey because Ptolemy XIII and his advisors saw his arrival as an opportunity to get into Caesar's good books. As Pompey prepared to step ashore at Pelusium he was stabbed to death by Ptolemy XIII's men, his head was severed and his body thrown into the sea. The king and his advisors had ordered the assassination to please Caesar, but he was reportedly repulsed by Pompey's murder. According to Greek philosopher Plutarch, when Caesar arrived in Egypt "Theodotus came to him with Pompey's head, he turned away; he took up the man's signet ring instead, and wept for him".

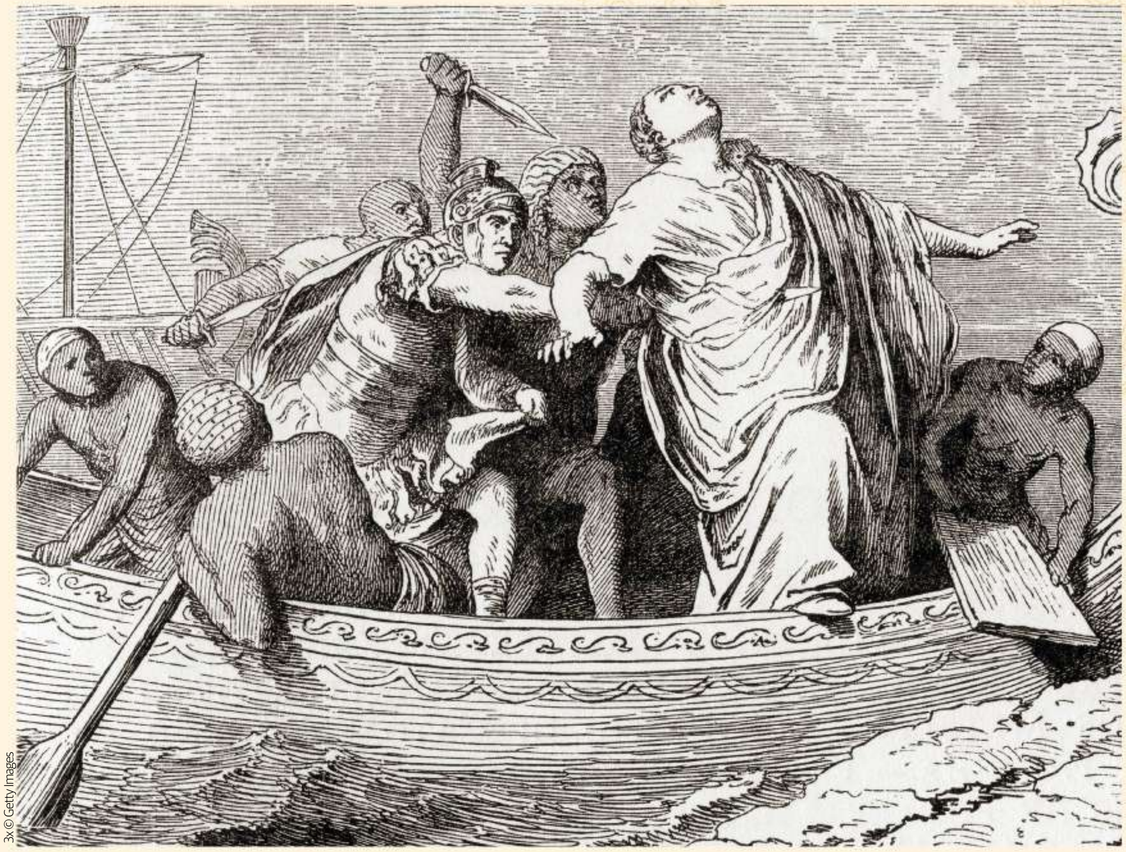
Although he had turned up in Egypt to chase Pompey, Caesar quickly found himself caught up in the feud between the Ptolemaic siblings. Their father's will had stated that if there were any dynastic disputes they should be settled by Rome, thereby giving Caesar the authority to act as a mediator.

Setting himself up in the royal palace, Caesar demanded that Cleopatra and Ptolemy XIII set aside their differences and reconcile. Ultimately, the biggest concern for Rome was to maintain control over Egypt's resources, especially its grain, which was used to feed the Roman army. At the end of the day, it did not matter to the Romans who sat on the throne. Caesar was also eager to get the money that the late Ptolemy XII owed to Rome but Pothinus resisted, wanting the Roman to leave Alexandria.

Meanwhile, Cleopatra knew that Caesar was the man who had the power to help her regain her throne from her brother once and for all, but she could not get to him. Not only was her brother's army preventing her from returning to Alexandria, but even if she managed to reach the palace, she would be instantly recognised by her enemies.

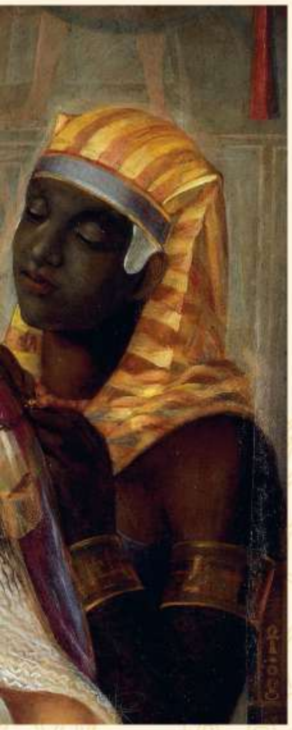
To solve this problem, Plutarch claims that Cleopatra snuck into the city and the palace with the help of her loyal follower, Apollodorus of Sicily. He states that "she got into one of those sacks that are used for bedclothes and stretched herself out full length. Apollodorus rolled up the sack, fastened it with a strap, and brought it in through the doors to Caesar". When she revealed herself, Caesar was reportedly left captivated by her "charm and grace".

As iconic as this scene is in popular culture, there is no evidence to prove that Cleopatra ever wrapped herself up in a sack to sneak in and present herself to Caesar. It is often assumed that Cleopatra, frequently depicted as a scheming seductress, captivated Caesar and seduced him to join her cause because this is what the Roman propaganda wants us to believe. However, it is important to note



ABOVE The murder of Pompey by Ptolemy XIII's men

3x © Getty Images



LEFT Cleopatra was the last of the Macedonians to rule in Egypt

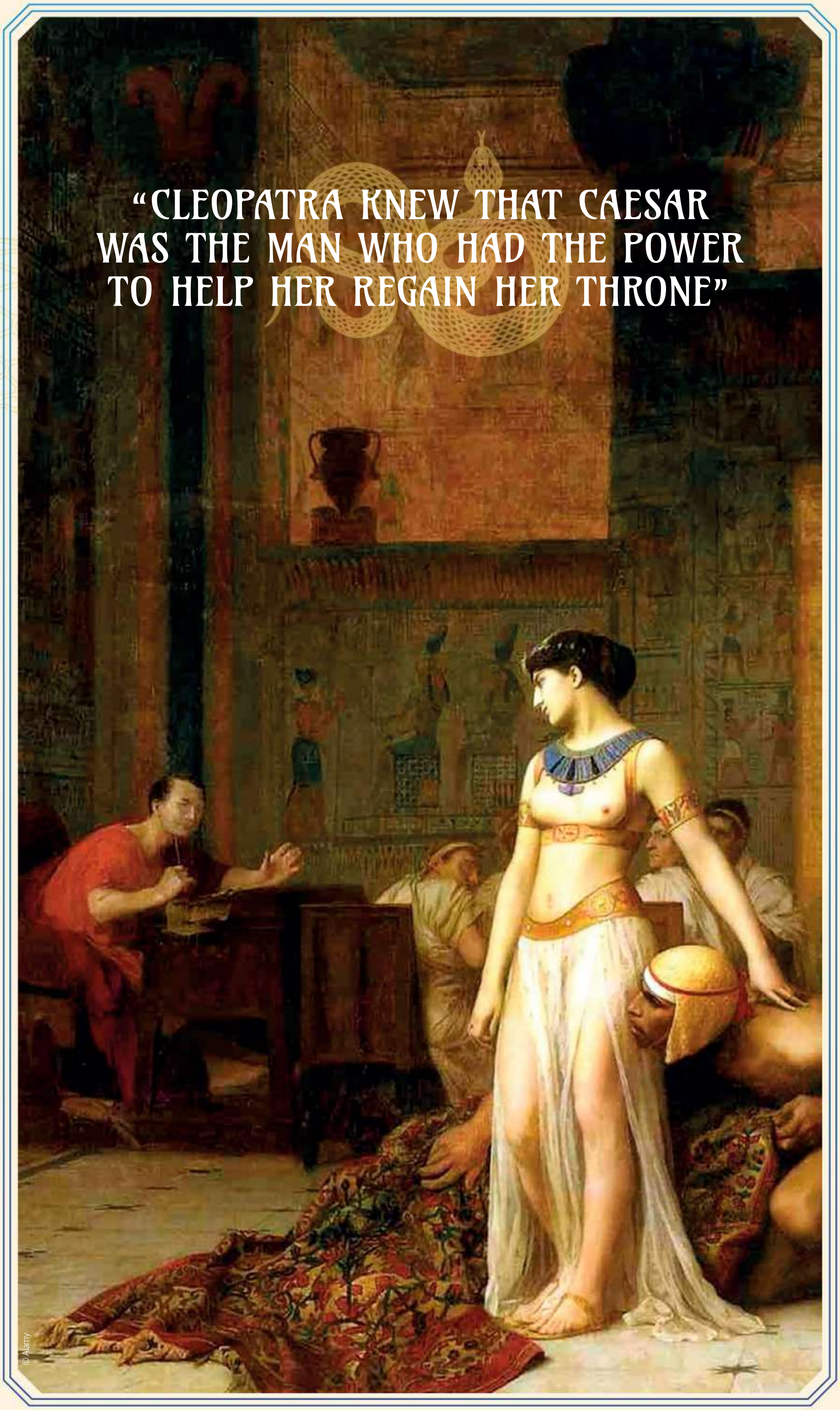
RIGHT The first meeting between Cleopatra and Caesar has been frequently depicted through the ages

that Cleopatra was only 22 years old at this point, while Caesar was 52 and far more experienced – we can't say for certain that it was the queen who did the seducing.

How their relationship began might not be clear, but Cleopatra certainly won Caesar over to her side with her charisma. When Ptolemy XIII arrived at the palace to speak with Caesar the next morning, he was enraged to discover that not only had Cleopatra managed to enter Alexandria and the palace, but she had successfully become Caesar's lover.

Angered, Ptolemy XIII and his advisors decided to go to war against Cleopatra and Caesar, with conflict breaking out between the Egyptian army, led by Achillas, and the Roman forces. In the ensuing Siege of Alexandria, Cleopatra and Caesar spent the winter besieged at the palace as the latter did not have enough men to fight their rivals, although they managed to have Pothinus assassinated. It has been suggested that it was during this conflict that part of the library of Alexandria may have been burned down.

Meanwhile Arsinoe IV – who had previously fled into exile with Cleopatra – decided to escape from the palace and join Achillas' forces, declaring herself as queen and supplanting her sister. Proving to be as ruthless as the rest of her family, Arsinoe IV had Achillas killed and replaced him with her tutor, Ganymedes. As supplies to the palace were running out, Caesar requested reinforcements



"CLEOPATRA KNEW THAT CAESAR WAS THE MAN WHO HAD THE POWER TO HELP HER REGAIN HER THRONE"

© Alamy

from Mithridates of Pergamon, who arrived in spring 47 BCE and managed to break through the Egyptian army lines.

Caesar subsequently left the palace and led the Roman forces against Ptolemy XIII and the Egyptians at the Battle of the Nile. It was a decisive victory for Caesar, with Ptolemy XIII ultimately drowning in the river, supposedly when his boat capsized. Arsinoe IV was captured and sent to Rome, where she had to suffer the humiliation of taking part in Caesar's triumph to celebrate his victory. Despite this, he chose to spare Arsinoe's life and she sought sanctuary at the Temple of Artemis in the Greek city of Ephesus.

Cleopatra was noticeably absent while Caesar dispatched with their enemies at the Nile, most likely because she was pregnant with his child. It is alleged that the couple went on a luxurious cruise down the Nile to commemorate their resounding victory and Cleopatra later gave birth to their son Caesarion – also known as 'Little Caesar' – in June 47 BCE. In keeping with the tradition of sibling co-rulers, Cleopatra married her other brother, 12-year-old Ptolemy XIV, who was appointed as her co-ruler. Nonetheless, true power very much lay with the queen.

Now that the matter of the Egyptian throne was finally settled, it was time for Caesar to return to Rome, although he left some men behind to ensure that Cleopatra's position remained secure. Yet it wasn't long before Cleopatra left Egypt to join Caesar at his request, arriving in Rome accompanied by Ptolemy XIV in 46 BCE, where she would stay for the next two years.

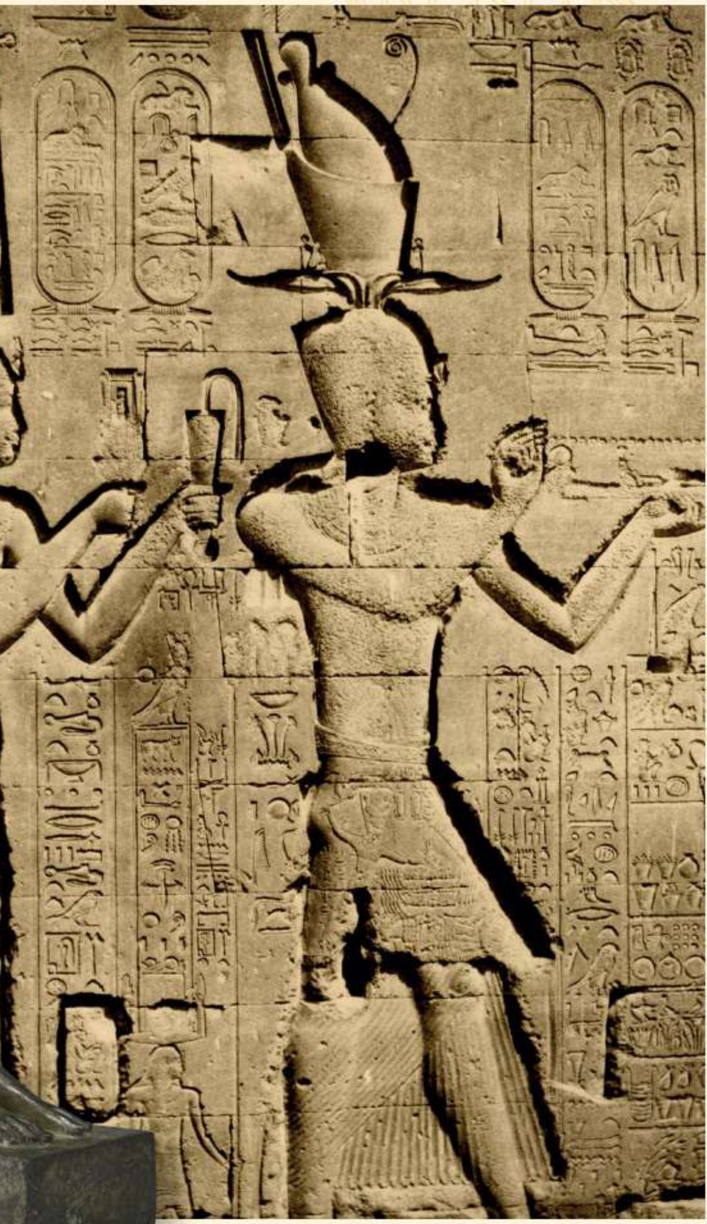
For the Romans, Cleopatra's affair with Caesar was nothing short of scandalous, especially as he already had a wife, Calpurnia. To make matters worse Cleopatra, as a monarch, was the physical embodiment of everything that the Roman Republic had feared – especially as there were concerns regarding Caesar's increasingly evident ambition to rule. It is no wonder that Cicero, one of the republic's most powerful statesmen, famously declared: "I can't stand the queen."

Cleopatra had aligned herself with Caesar because she knew that he had the power to both restore her to the throne and to keep her there – but it was precisely this power that would be his undoing. After being named 'dictator for life', Caesar's authoritarian dreams came to a brutal end when he was assassinated

BELOW-LEFT Isis was one of the most important goddesses of ancient Egypt

BELOW-RIGHT Bas-reliefs of Cleopatra and her son and co-ruler, Caesarion, at the Temple of Hathor

Image source: wiki/ Walters Art Museum



2x © Alamy

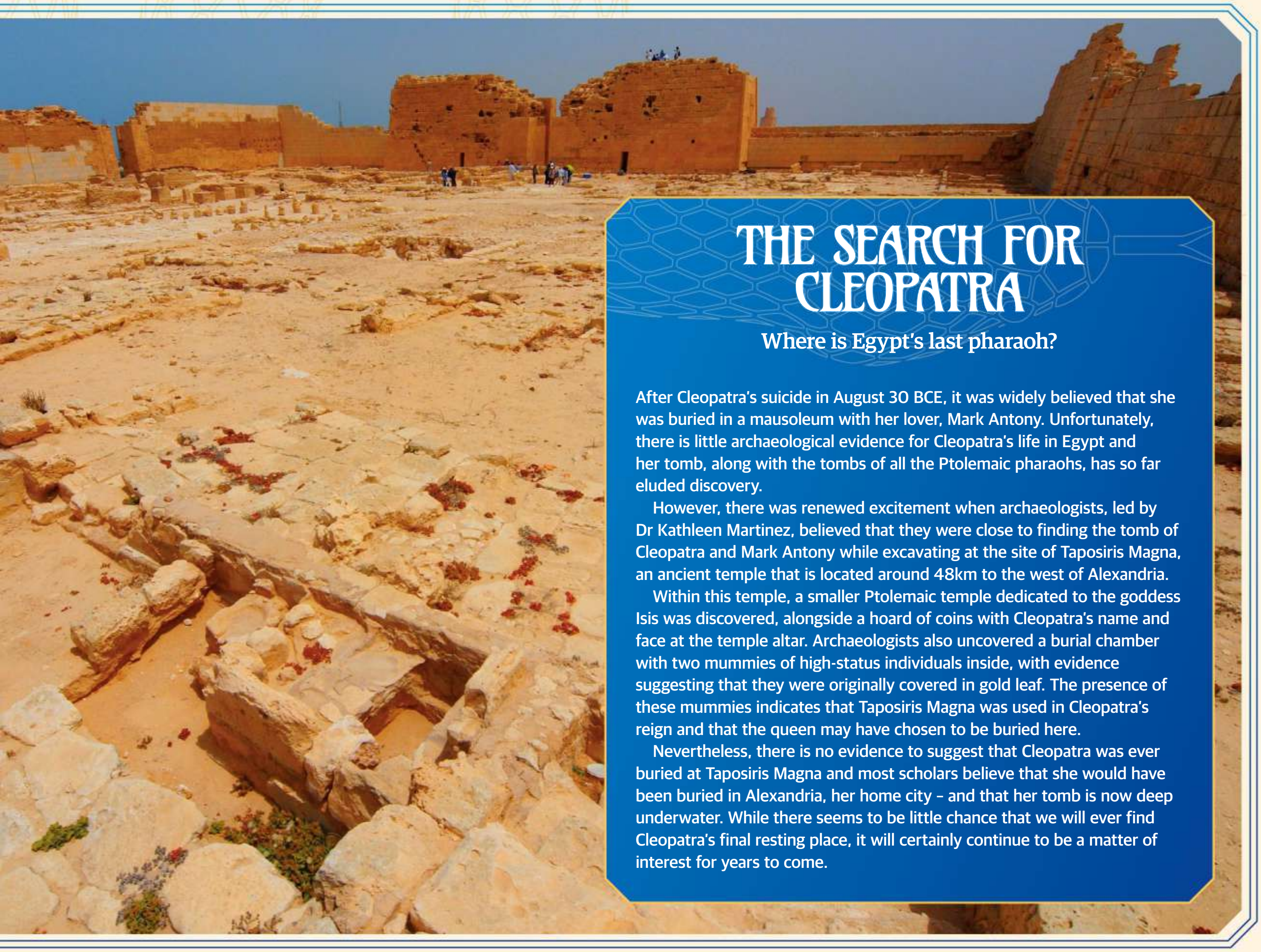
> "TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE CLEOPATRA, AS A MONARCH, WAS THE PHYSICAL EMBODIMENT OF EVERYTHING THAT THE ROMAN REPUBLIC HAD FEARED"

on the Ides of March in 44 BCE, a group of about 60 conspirators stabbing him to death in cold blood.

Even though her lover and protector was gone, Cleopatra initially stayed in Rome with the hope of having Caesarion accepted as Caesar's legitimate heir. When this failed, she returned to Egypt with Ptolemy XIV, who mysteriously died shortly afterwards. The most likely explanation is that he was murdered on Cleopatra's orders to make way for her three-year-old son to become her new co-ruler as Ptolemy XV Caesarion.

After seven tumultuous years, Cleopatra could finally rule her kingdom without having to look over her shoulder, waiting for her family to strike. Her only sibling that remained alive, Arsinoe IV, would eventually be assassinated at the queen's request, securing Cleopatra's position on the Egyptian throne once and for all. It was another example of her ruthlessness, but she had to be ruthless in order to survive the reality in which she lived.

Cleopatra's rise to power was indeed bloody but she tried her best to rule Egypt, with many of her accomplishments overshadowed by the propaganda that was churned out by the Romans, who despised her. However, Cleopatra's intelligence and ability to rule were celebrated by her contemporaries in Egypt and various medieval Islamic and Arabic sources. Constantly aware that Egypt was at risk of being attacked and annexed by Rome, Cleopatra was eventually forced to seek out a new protector after Caesar's demise, setting the stage for her ill-fated relationship with another powerful Roman general – Mark Antony. ○



THE SEARCH FOR CLEOPATRA

Where is Egypt's last pharaoh?

After Cleopatra's suicide in August 30 BCE, it was widely believed that she was buried in a mausoleum with her lover, Mark Antony. Unfortunately, there is little archaeological evidence for Cleopatra's life in Egypt and her tomb, along with the tombs of all the Ptolemaic pharaohs, has so far eluded discovery.

However, there was renewed excitement when archaeologists, led by Dr Kathleen Martinez, believed that they were close to finding the tomb of Cleopatra and Mark Antony while excavating at the site of Taposiris Magna, an ancient temple that is located around 48km to the west of Alexandria.

Within this temple, a smaller Ptolemaic temple dedicated to the goddess Isis was discovered, alongside a hoard of coins with Cleopatra's name and face at the temple altar. Archaeologists also uncovered a burial chamber with two mummies of high-status individuals inside, with evidence suggesting that they were originally covered in gold leaf. The presence of these mummies indicates that Taposiris Magna was used in Cleopatra's reign and that the queen may have chosen to be buried here.

Nevertheless, there is no evidence to suggest that Cleopatra was ever buried at Taposiris Magna and most scholars believe that she would have been buried in Alexandria, her home city – and that her tomb is now deep underwater. While there seems to be little chance that we will ever find Cleopatra's final resting place, it will certainly continue to be a matter of interest for years to come.

PEEP
SHOW
ATURE
MAGA

Secrets of Soho

Uncovering the seedy and salacious history of London's most notorious quarter

Written by Callum McKelvie

The name Soho conjures images of peep shows, all-night drinking and a hive of radical alternative culture. The London area's sensational reputation began in the 1920s when there were some 295 registered clubs within one mile of Piccadilly Circus. Scotland Yard's Vice Squad even had a book listing the various venues through which officers could familiarise themselves with the less-salubrious nightspots. Over successive decades this number would only expand and the area would become a haven for bohemians, artists, members of the LGBT community and darker elements of society such as organised crime. Join us as we take a journey down the long-forgotten side streets of Soho's past…

Where to begin? Well, perhaps with a bite to eat? And since the 1950s there's only been one place in which to get a good, hearty (and cheap) meal: Chinatown. Soho's Chinatown really began in the 1920s, when a small cluster of Chinese restaurants started to open in the area. Previously, the centre of the capital's immigrant Chinese community had been in Limehouse, East London, which, despite having very little recorded crime soon developed a nefarious reputation thanks to works such as Sax Rohmer's Fu Manchu novels. These books portrayed the area as full of opium dens, brothels and criminal masterminds. Following WWII, the immigrant population relocated first to Gerrard Street, Soho, where soon other non-culinary related businesses began to thrive. As historian Peter Speiser explains in *Soho: The Heart of Bohemian London*: "It was the communist takeover in 1949 that led to an influx of Chinese refugees into war-scarred Soho. They

PRIVATE BOOTHS
CINEMA
OKS
ZINES
VIDEOS NOW SHOWING IN
CAFE EUROPA

Opening image and title font: © Getty Images

quickly established restaurants that were increasingly popular with theatre-goers, students looking for a cheap meal, and former British servicemen who had acquired a taste for Chinese food when serving in Asia." Many of the immigrants developed their own names for the street, including 'Tong Yahn', which in Cantonese roughly translates as 'Chinese People's Street', and the quarter itself was referred to as the 'Imperial City'. In the 1970s businesses began to move to Wardour Street, where contemporary Chinatown can be found today.

Of course, in Soho one has to be careful of organised crime. The Krays? Pah, move over. In Soho, Jack 'Spot' Comer was king. He often boasted that his nickname came from the fact that, if you were in trouble, he was always 'on the spot'. More than likely, however, it referred to the large mole on his face. Born in 1913, Spot spent his childhood hanging around in gangs, and one event in particular had a large impact on the soon-to-be gangster. After a run-in with some rivals he was severely beaten but obtained revenge when he found the leader of the gang alone, pounding him to a pulp. "I discovered that I had to be patient to exact a full toll of vengeance," Spot would later explain. "That fight taught me the desperation of being hounded and for the first time it taught me fear. Terrible, gibbering fear!"

"The brawl spilled into a greengrocer's and the owner's wife hit one of them over the head with a frying pan"

Spot's criminal career started small, collecting blood money for the 'Stall Traders Fund Association', created to stop new traders setting up stalls so old traders could get through the Depression. He then moved swiftly into working for the racetrack gangs, who were at this time one of the most vicious elements of the criminal underworld. Spot soon developed a calling card: dragging a razor down the side of a victim's leg and around their buttocks so they feared sitting down lest the stitches tear open. His rise to power began post-war when he took on the infamous crime family, The Whites. First he forced them to give up control of Great Yarmouth Racecourse, then in 1947 he assaulted a cousin of the family who'd mocked him for drinking only lemonade. The fight broke out in a lavatory and, in Spot's own words: "Bump! Down into the piss he went." Following this, Spot confronted Harry White himself and the resulting fight meant that the crime family lost respect and Spot was now the man to be feared. For nearly a decade, Spot and fellow gangster Billy Hill ran Soho, having some level of control over any criminal enterprise in the area. The result was that in this period Soho was relatively peaceful, with no gang wars or fights – that is until the two men's uneasy alliance collapsed. After Hill sought to regain control of the racecourses Spot got into a fight with his right-hand man, Albert Dimes. The fight only ended when the brawl spilled into a greengrocer's and the owner's wife hit one of them over the head with a frying pan. Hill didn't give up there, though, and sent Mad Frankie Fraser to slash Spot, who left Soho and the West End shortly after.

Anyway, enough talk of such things. Perhaps you would be interested in something a bit more bohemian in nature? In that case, we'll have to visit The Colony Room Club, a grandiose den of debauchery that was a meeting place for Soho's artists, writers and creatives for 60 years. Opening in 1948, it began primarily as a jazz bar, but those who ventured there did so because of its non-judgmental approach towards the clientele. Here, there was no need to hide and among the openly homosexual members was politician Tom Driberg, who often kept an eye out for a sailor in uniform. The Colony also proved popular due to it's bypassing

2x © Alamy

ABOVE Soho legend Paul Raymond poses with one of his dancers in 1962

ABOVE-RIGHT The 2i's coffee bar, next door to Heaven & Hell Coffee Lounge

LEFT The Beatles look distinctly unimpressed by the evening's entertainment

Heaven & HELL
Coffee Lounge
2i's

© Getty Images

of the strict laws regarding pub opening hours (11am-3pm, 6pm-11pm). The reasoning was that artists and writers didn't keep a nine-to-five schedule, so the club couldn't possibly be expected to follow these rules. Perhaps the best example would be the artist Francis Bacon, arguably the club's most famous member. Bacon would start his day at 5am and work until 12pm before embarking upon a bender that began with drinks at The French House, lunch at Wheeler's, more drinks at the Colony until 11pm and gambling until 2am, repeating the routine the next day. He was a Colony regular for four decades and it would become something of a second home for him.

Colony members became a tight-knit community and, as one regular, artist Darren Coffield, remembered: "The Colony was not just a bar, but also an artistic support centre, psychiatrist's couch, local post office (members left notes and letters to one another behind the bar), unemployment bureau and marriage guidance centre. ('It will all end in tears, dear.')"

So who was the owner who managed to control this riotous group of bohemians? That would be one Muriel Belcher, who the Australian comedian Barry Humphries (better known as Dame Edna Everage) once described as an "ogress" and her barman Ian Board as a "malevolent elf". Coffield remembered Board as ruling "the club with a rod of iron, like a cross-between Oscar Wilde and Hitler" before recalling fondly that Board would always ask, "How's your handbag, dear?", ensuring the young man had enough money for a taxi home. Belcher was something of a Soho character, with a notorious reputation. Described as having a "strong Sephardic profile reminiscent of a hawk" and a "benevolent witch", Belcher also had a distinct habit of referring to her regular male customers as her 'daughters'. Indeed, many visitors would refer to the club as 'Muriel's' after its owner the "charismatic bisexual from Birmingham". Among those who passed through the Colony's doors were Noël Coward, Tallulah Bankhead, Charles Laughton, Damien Hirst and Tom Baker.

Perhaps we'd best lay off the stronger stuff for now, and instead visit one of the espresso bars that caused something of a cultural revolution in the 1950s. The first such place, Moka Bar, opened in the summer of 1952 on Frith Street. Its intention was to demonstrate the Gaggia espresso machine for potential buyers, but the bar itself was so popular that by 1960 there were estimated to be some 500 similar establishments all over London. These cafes were a hive of youth subculture, none more so than the 2i's Coffee Bar on Old Compton Street, which claimed to be the birthplace of British rock'n'roll. Underneath the main cafe was a basement where young wannabe teenage rock stars would play

▶

Soho Hotspots

Find your way to some of the hottest establishments of yesteryear

1 THE FRENCH HOUSE

The French House is a Soho institution. It was one of Francis Bacon's favourite drinking establishments, and legendary Welsh poet and renowned lush Dylan Thomas was another regular. Today it strictly forbids the use of mobile phones so its bohemian customers can cut loose without fear of being photographed!

2 MADAME JOJO'S

Beginning life as a revue bar in the 1960s, Madame Jojo's was legendary for its burlesque, cabaret and drag acts. In 2014 Westminster council revoked its licence but last year the venue once again made headlines when Paul Raymond's granddaughters led a campaign to reopen it.

3 PARTISAN COFFEE HOUSE

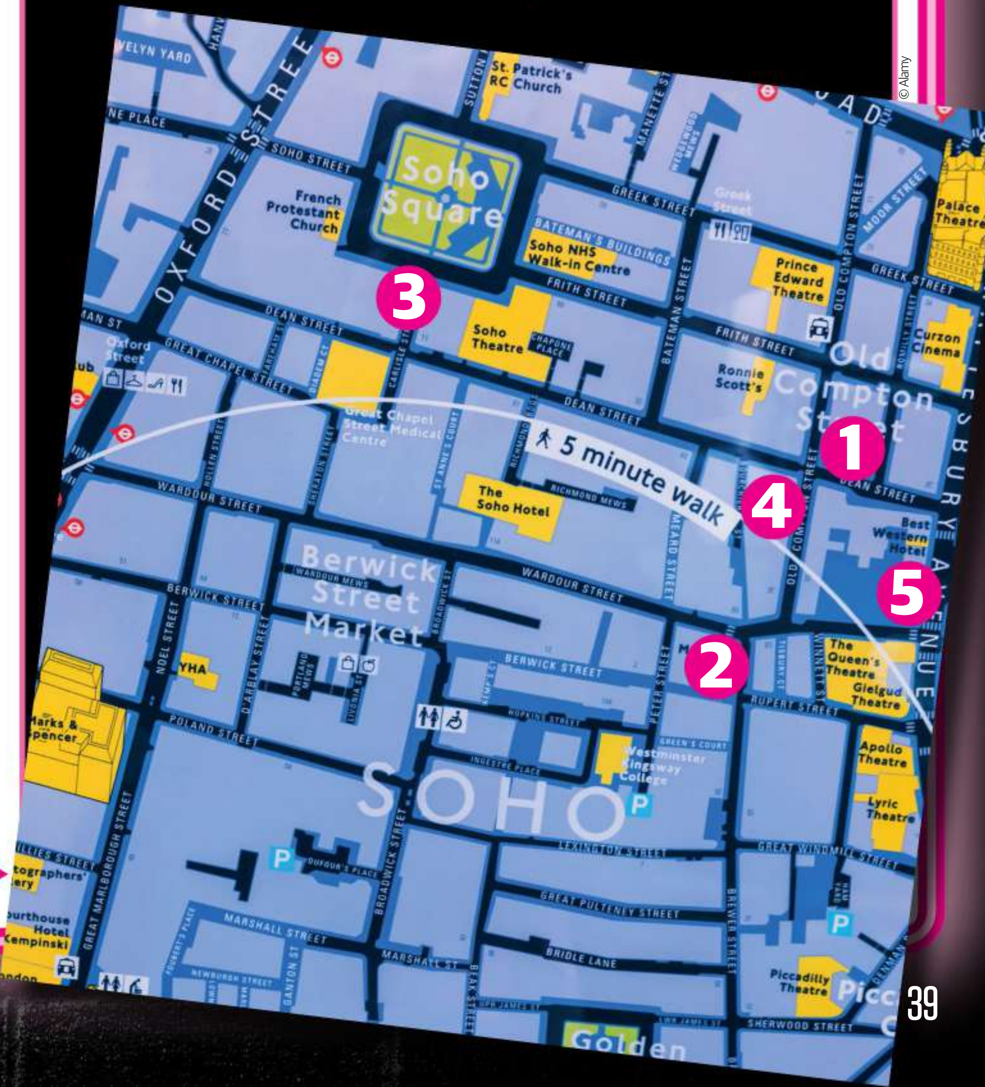
Set up in 1958 by the radical Marxist historians Raphael Samuel and Eric Hobsbawm, it gave birth to the New Left. While the coffee wasn't up to much the cafe was a hive of socialist thought and had such distinguished guests as Rod Stewart and Quentin Crisp. Alas, the building is now home to offices.

4 ADMIRAL DUNCAN

The oldest gay bar in Soho still in operation, the Admiral Duncan has been trading since at least the mid-1800s and became popular as an LGBT venue in the 1980s. It's still going today and is a mainstay of Soho nightlife.

5 CHINATOWN

The only place to go if you're after authentic Chinese cuisine, the packed area is full of both old and new favourites.


1
2
3
4
5
5 minute walk
Soho Square
St. Patrick's RC Church
French Protestant Church
Soho NHS Walk-in Centre
Bateman's Buildings
Soho Theatre
Prince Edward Theatre
Palace Theatre
Curzon Cinema
Ronnie Scott's
Old Compton Street
Oxford Street
Soho Street
Greek Street
Frith Street
Dean Street
Great Chapel Street
Great Chapel Street Medical Centre
The Soho Hotel
Richmond Mews
Wardour Street
Berwick Street Market
Berwick Street
Best Western Hotel
The Queen's Theatre
Gielgud Theatre
Apollo Theatre
Lyric Theatre
Rupert Street
Westminster Kingsway College
YHA
Marks & Spencer
Poland Street
Noel Street
D'Arblay Street
Broadwick Street
Great Marlborough Street
Lexington Street
Great Windmill Street
Great Pulteney Street
Brewer Street
Bridle Lane
Marshall Street
Ganton St
Piccadilly Theatre
Sherwood Street
Moor Street
Bateman Street
Carlisle Street
Soho
Golden
Shaftesbury Avenue

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to the masses, two of which would go on to become Cliff Richard and Tommy Steele. Each coffee bar was unique in its own way, as Dr Matthew Partington explains in his paper on the subject: "The majority of the coffee bars were independent (rather than a chain of premises) and they not only looked different from one another but their owners actively sought to make them look different so that they would be remembered from a multitude of others." Perhaps one of the most bizarre was Le Macabre, operating on Meard Street throughout the 1960s and into the 1970s. Taking its gothic theming intensely seriously, the tables were coffins, ashtrays were skulls made out of Bakelite, and the jukebox played songs exclusively on the subject of death. Today you can still visit another famous Soho coffee house, Bar Italia, which although not as influential as Moka Bar actually predates it by some seven years and may be London's oldest Italian coffee house.

What's that? You think you've spotted somebody you know? Somebody famous? Well, we'd hardly be surprised. Throughout its history Soho, as well as being home to eccentrics, artists and the odd villain or two, has teemed with celebrities. In the 1700s Chevalier d'Eon, the infamous swordsperson, diplomat and spy who defied cultural norms and changed their gender, lived at 38 Brewer Street. Some decades after d'Eon's death in 1810, the aftermath of the 1848 revolutions caused many political exiles to seek refuge in Britain, including a young journalist and philosopher by the name of Karl Marx, who lived on Dean Street from 1851 to 1856. Both d'Eon and Marx have illustrious company: William Blake, Casanova, Mozart, John Logie Baird and Mary Seacole all lived in the area at some point.

Even those who were unfortunate (or perhaps that should be fortunate?) not to live in Soho seem to have been inspired by its atmosphere and colourful characters. As well as the aforementioned writers who frequented the Colony club, Virginia Woolf regularly purchased "flawed slightly" silk stockings at Berwick Street Market and described Soho as a menacing place filled with "fierce" light and "raw" voices. She wasn't alone in her shopping habits either, as famous TV chef Fanny Cradock used to buy exotic ingredients there. Numerous influential musicians also thrived in Soho, including David Bowie, whose first band, Dave Jones And The King Bees, played in The Jack Of Clubs (soon to be Madame JoJo's) in 1964 in what would be his big break.

Whereas some sought fame and fortune, others were attracted to Soho for the discretion it offered. The area served as a safe haven for LGBT individuals, in particular gay men, who in the years prior to the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1967 found themselves continuously persecuted, despite the findings of the 1957 Wolfenden Report that recommended homosexuality should no longer be a criminal offence. In the 1930s Soho was home to the Caravan Club, which catered for the LGBT community but soon attracted unwanted attention. In 1934 it was the site of a police raid that led to some 103 individuals being arrested. One in particular, Cyril De Leon, bravely confronted the officer in charge and said: "Well, I don't mind this beastly raid but I would like to know if you can let me have one of your nice boys to come home with. I really am good". In the 1960s and 1970s there were clubs such as the Careless Stork and the Festival, which operated as lesbian bars, and the Duce and the Alphabet, which were for homosexual men. Homosexuals at this time often spoke Polari, a slang that allowed them to openly express themselves without fear of persecution.

Of course no trip down Soho's seedy side streets would be complete without some, shall we say, titillating entertainment

RIGHT Soho has a long history of indulging visitors' more salacious appetites

BELOW Amateur striptease nights at the Raymond Revuebar were hugely popular

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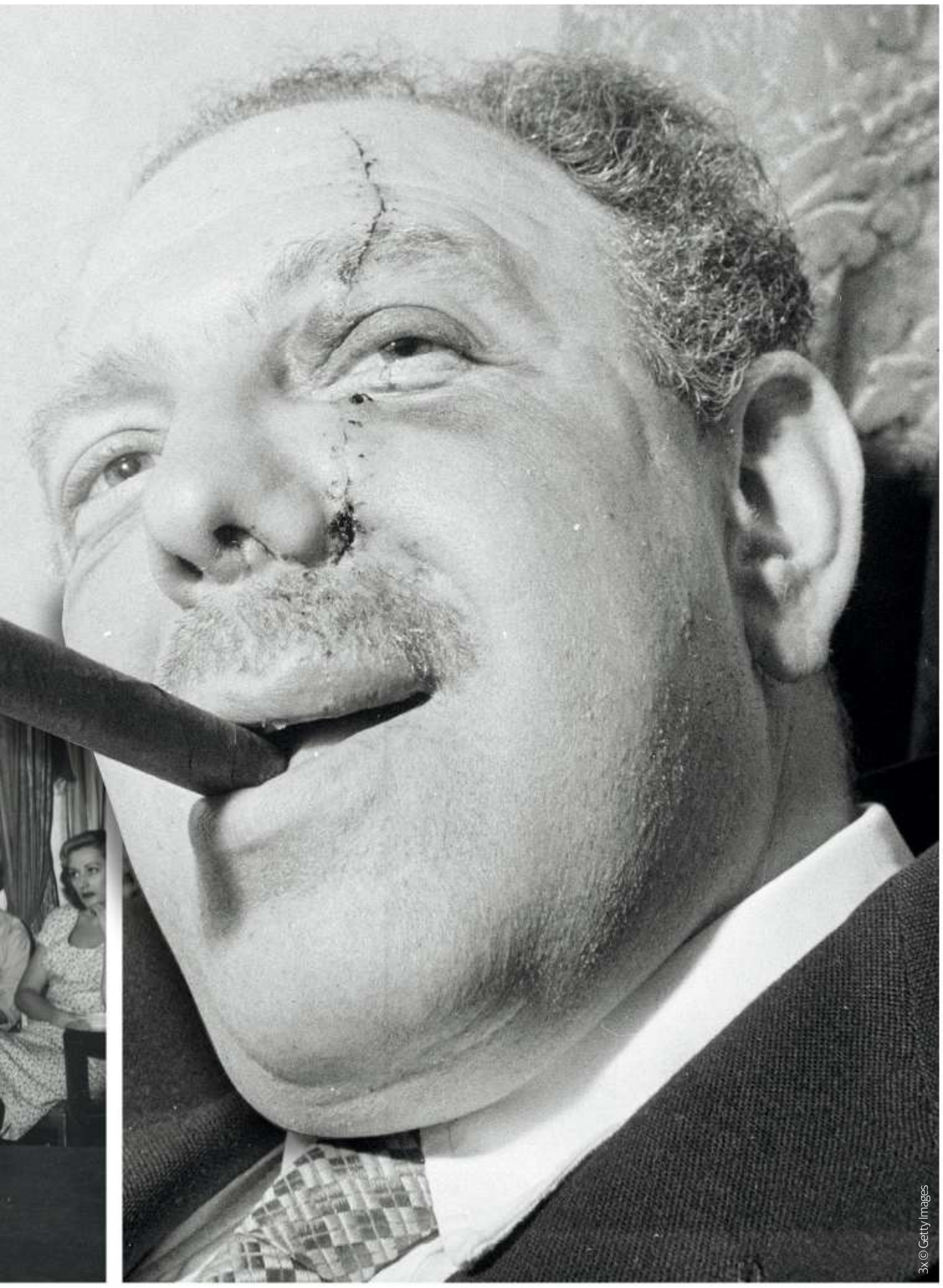
Learn Polari

Some key phrases that made up the secret language used by the LGBT community

Lilly (Law)	The Police
Dish	Bottom
Eek	Face
Cod	Awful
Handbag	Money
Dolly	Beautiful



3x © Getty Images

ABOVE Gangster Jack 'Spot' Comer, the self-styled 'King of Soho'

Trade	A sex partner
Kaffies	Trousers
Oglefakes	Glasses
Basket	Bulge
Eine	London
Omi-Palone	A gay man

and a visit to one of Paul Raymond's establishments. In the 1960s and 1970s Raymond was the uncrowned king of Soho's adult entertainment industry, owning numerous clubs, the most famous and notorious of which was the Raymond Revuebar. The Revuebar was inspired by the Windmill Theatre, which during World War II had hosted a form of cabaret known as Revudeville, combining 'revue' (variety theatre) and 'nudity' and whose players included noted actor Kenneth Moore.

It was Raymond, however, who in the 1950s and 1960s turned sex-based cabaret into a Soho institution. Raymond was born in 1925 to a family with a strong Catholic ideology, and attended a strict boys' school. After leaving school he first got a taste for showbusiness working as a drummer at the Grand Pavilion in Withernsea. He was finally drawn to Soho, where he quickly gained a reputation as a 'fiddler', an early name for what would become known as a 'spiv' (petty criminal). Following a brief lapse in fortune, he found success operating a touring vaudeville show. His genius was in circumventing laws prohibiting nude dancing by having his models simply stand motionless. It was with the profits from this that, in 1957, he was able to set up the Raymond Revuebar. Speaking of the entertainment on offer, a 1966 *Time* magazine article described one of the Revuebar's act as follows: "An Australian blonde named Rita Elen gets knocked about by a hirsute rich man's Johnny Weissmuller with a whip whilst she does an exotic dance with a fully grown live cheetah." Despite the law criminalising homosexual acts, the Revuebar offered a Sunday night programme aimed specifically towards gay men.

> "Raymond's genius was in circumventing laws prohibiting nude dancing by having his models simply stand motionless"

Naturally, the entertainment on offer at the Raymond Revuebar caused controversy and in 1961 Raymond was fined £5,000 by the chairman of the London Sessions, who called the bar's shows "filthy, disgusting and beastly". The resulting publicity kept the bar in operation and Raymond quickly recouped his £5,000. Capitalising on the club's success, he opened more strip clubs and a variety of pornographic magazines including *Club International*, *Mayfair* and *Men Only*. Today, the spot where the Revuebar once stood is occupied by The Box Soho, an establishment which continues its predecessor's legacy by offering a regular evening cabaret of salacious entertainment.

Well, we hope you've enjoyed our little tour of a long-gone Soho, an area now ravaged by time and gentrification. The history of this quarter is as colourful and decadent as some of its inhabitants, and there are many other infamous establishments we didn't have time to visit. For example, we could have popped into Regent Street's The Eve Club, which played host to Frank Sinatra, Errol Flynn and a host of government ministers during the 1960s. Or we could have had a cup at the Heaven & Hell Coffee House, which boasted a downstairs level that could only be reached by entering through the mouth of a giant devil. Rest assured, however, that while many of these venues have faded into obscurity, the memory of them lives on and Soho's bohemian spirit will never die. ○

CRUCIBLE OF LEADERSHIP

We reveal how the American experience of World War I and the command of General John J Pershing helped to shape a generation

Interview by Jonathan Gordon

When US forces landed in Europe in 1917 it was to prove a turning point in American foreign and domestic policy. America was engaging with the world beyond its borders in a way it had not done before. President Woodrow Wilson had actually made it a pillar of his presidency that the US would remain neutral during the Great War. But all of that changed when Germany began attacking American ships in the Atlantic.

And while the events on the ground (and at sea) were important, just as influential in the long term were the leaders who emerged from this conflict. Historic names like President Harry Truman, generals of the army George Marshall and Douglas MacArthur, and commander of the Third Army George S Patton all came up through the ranks under the leadership of General John J Pershing, commander in chief of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF).

We spoke with Major General (ret) David T Ząbecki and Colonel (ret) Douglas V Mastriano, editors of *Pershing's Lieutenants*, which profiles many of the men who were integral to the US war effort in WWI and beyond, to learn more about the impact on the Great War on America and the influence of General Pershing on a generation of leaders.

What was significantly different about the Great War compared to other conflicts the United States had been engaged in up to that point?

Until the United States did so in 1917 and 1918, no country in history had tried to deploy a two-million-man force over 4,800km from its own borders and engage a major enemy army close to its own home territory. Furthermore, the United States starting in 1916 had to 'grow' a huge army in a matter of just months. Starting with a total of about 300,000 Regular Army and National Guard troops, by the end of 1918 the US Army had four million soldiers. Half that number was in Europe, and much of the remainder in America was preparing to deploy. A force of that size required more than 200,000 officers, who had to be recruited and trained. Those officers already in uniform quickly found themselves commanding brigades, divisions and even corps-echelons of command that had not existed in the US Army since the end of the Civil War in 1865.

EXPERT BIO

Major General (ret) David T Ząbecki has written, edited or translated over 25 military history books. His encyclopedia *Germany At War* won the Society for Military History Distinguished Book Award.

Colonel (ret) Douglas V Mastriano is an award-winning author and senior editor and contributor to two published strategic studies. He was also a professor of the US Army War College.

2x Image source: Osprey Publishing

Our readers will know names in your book like Marshall, Patton and Truman, but General Pershing may be less familiar. Why was he important?

Some of the familiar names in this book were also major figures during WWII. Pershing, of course, was long retired by then. The vast majority of America's senior leaders in WWII, however, learned their trade under Pershing during WWI. And for all Pershing's shortcomings as a tactician of modern warfare, he was still the essential driving force and the organiser of the AEF that arrived on the battlefield in 1918. When Pershing was selected to command the AEF in mid-1916, he was the only serving American officer who had commanded above the regimental level, having commanded a brigade on the Mexican border earlier that year.

How different was the logistical challenge Pershing faced compared to those who would follow him in WWII?

During WWI, America was not the 'Arsenal of Democracy' that it would be in WWII. American industry was ill-prepared to equip and support the massively expanded US Army.

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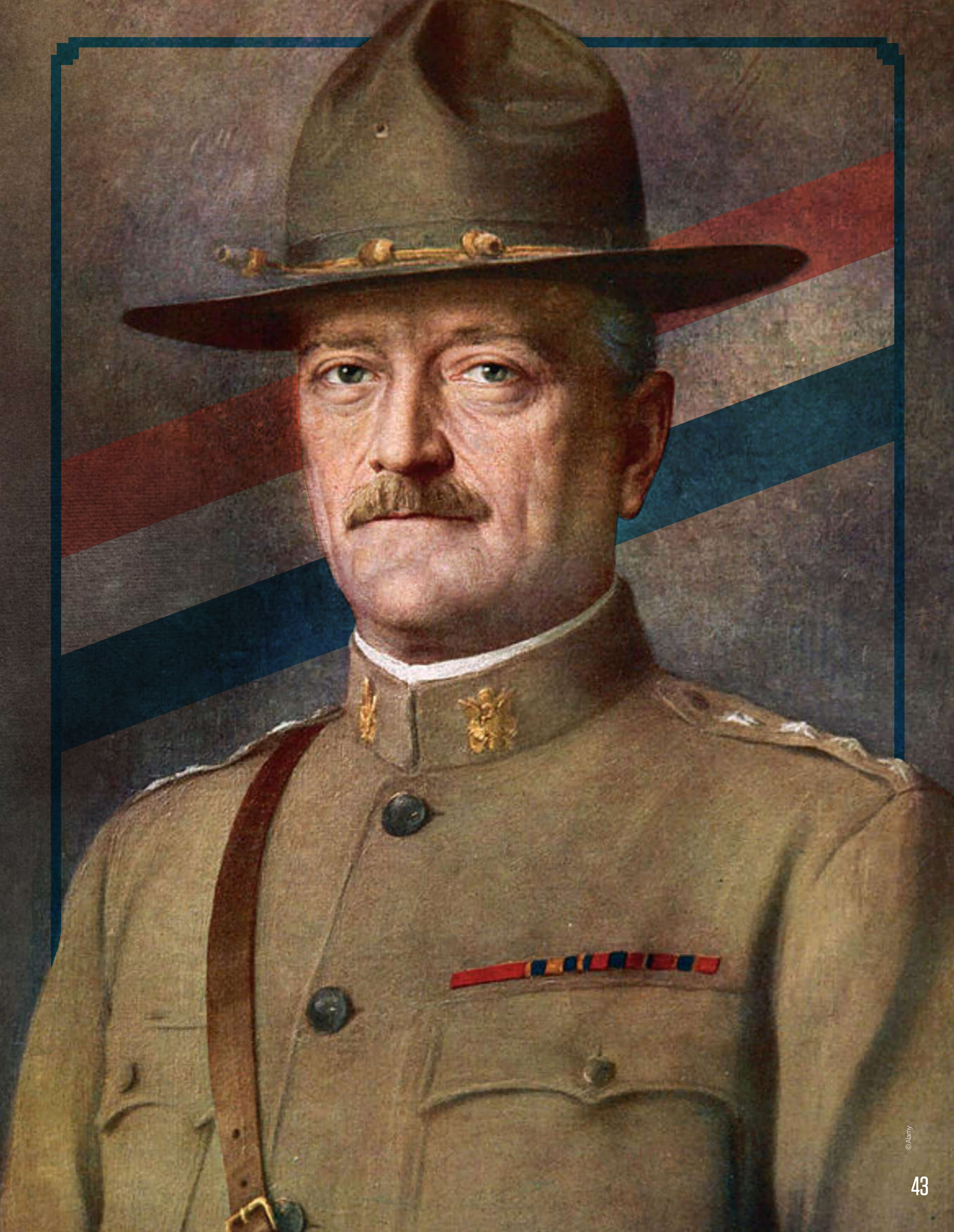

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American troops in France had to borrow heavily from the British and especially the French for artillery, tanks, aircraft, mortars and communications equipment. The American political and economic leadership did a poor job of mobilising for war. But the hard lessons learned were well applied during WWII.

How influential would you say the experience of WWI was on this new generation of American leaders?

The influence was decisive. For 50 years prior to America's entry into the war, the US Army had been little more than a frontier constabulary. Its one brief experience in large-scale warfare, the Spanish-American War of 1898, exposed chronic weaknesses in the ability to recruit, organise, train, equip, deploy and sustain combat forces in the field. Most of the officers who remained in the Army after 1918 were convinced that sooner or later they would have to fight a major war abroad again. Despite the severe economic restraints and the wave of isolationism that swept America during the 1920s and 1930s, many of the officers who remained worked hard to lay the foundations for the future they knew was coming.

So many key leadership figures for the US emerged from WWI. Was it an exceptional generation of Americans or was WWI a crucible in which they were forged?

The answer is both. Americans like to call the WWII generation 'The Greatest Generation'. But the members of that cohort were the young men who came of age during the Depression and went on to serve during WWII as the Army's frontline soldiers, NCOs, and company-grade and lower-ranking field-grade officers. Their senior leaders, those who provided the operational and the global strategic leadership, were of the earlier WWI generation. Thus, there were really two American great generations in WWII, with the older one arguably being the greater. It is impossible to understand the Marshalls, the MacArthurs, the Pattons, the Donovans and the Theodore Roosevelt Jrs of WWII without examining their WWI experiences. The same can be said of Britain's Alan Brooke, Bernard Montgomery, William Slim, Harold Alexander and Brian Horrocks.

How influential was WWI on American military policy in the years that followed?

During the 1920s and most of the 1930s, there were two strands of American military policy that ran counter to each other and only started to come together during the late-1930s. Most of the country wanted to retreat back into traditional US isolationism, with the naive belief that a large modern army was no longer necessary. As already noted, many American officers believed otherwise, and they fought to maintain the Army's professional standards as the base for future expansion. In that sense, the US Army of the inter-war period was a cadre army. Many officers played key roles in this process, but three of the most important are George Marshall, Malin Craig, and Fox Conner.

> "There were really two American great generations in WWII, with the older one arguably being the greater"

TOP Pershing leads veterans on parade through New York in 1919

ABOVE Pershing stands next to President Woodrow Wilson at a parade of US forces

Are there any examples of decisions made by American military figures during WWII that you could trace back to their experience of the Great War?

One of the most important lessons that Marshall learned as the chief of operations for the US First Army was the gruelling physical and mental demands placed on combat commanders at the most senior levels. Thus, one of his first acts when he assumed the office of Army chief of staff on 1 September 1939 was to purge the Army of many of its senior-most officers who were too old or too unfit to lead under the rigours of combat. It was a gut-wrenching process during which Marshall forced many long-standing personal friends into retirement. But as a result, Marshall had the flexibility to rapidly move forward younger and more dynamic officers, like Patton, Dwight D Eisenhower, Omar Bradley and Lesley J McNair. Another one of Marshall's major decisions was to completely overhaul the standard structure of the US division. The American 'square division' of WWI consisted of two infantry brigades of two regiments each. It was a very large and unwieldy force. Marshall converted the US division to a 'triangular' structure, a far smaller but more flexible force of three infantry regiments.

Patton was a career cavalry officer and a devoted horse lover. Yet his experience in WWI with the primitive but evolving tank convinced him that the future of manoeuvre warfare was with mechanisation, and that the horse's battlefield days were over.

4x Image source: Library of Congress

Billy Mitchell started his career as a Signal Corps officer, but he later qualified as a pilot. His experiences in WWI convinced him that command of the air was the newly emerged third dimension of warfare. Following the lead of Britain's Sir Hugh Trenchard, Mitchell became a zealous proponent of air power and an advocate for the establishment of an independent US Air Force. Mitchell's aggressive political tactics eventually cost him his military career, and the US Air Force did not become a separate service until 1947. But throughout WWII the US Army Air Forces were largely operationally independent from Army ground commanders.

Are there any key figures who worked under Pershing who you think have been forgotten by history that deserve greater recognition today?

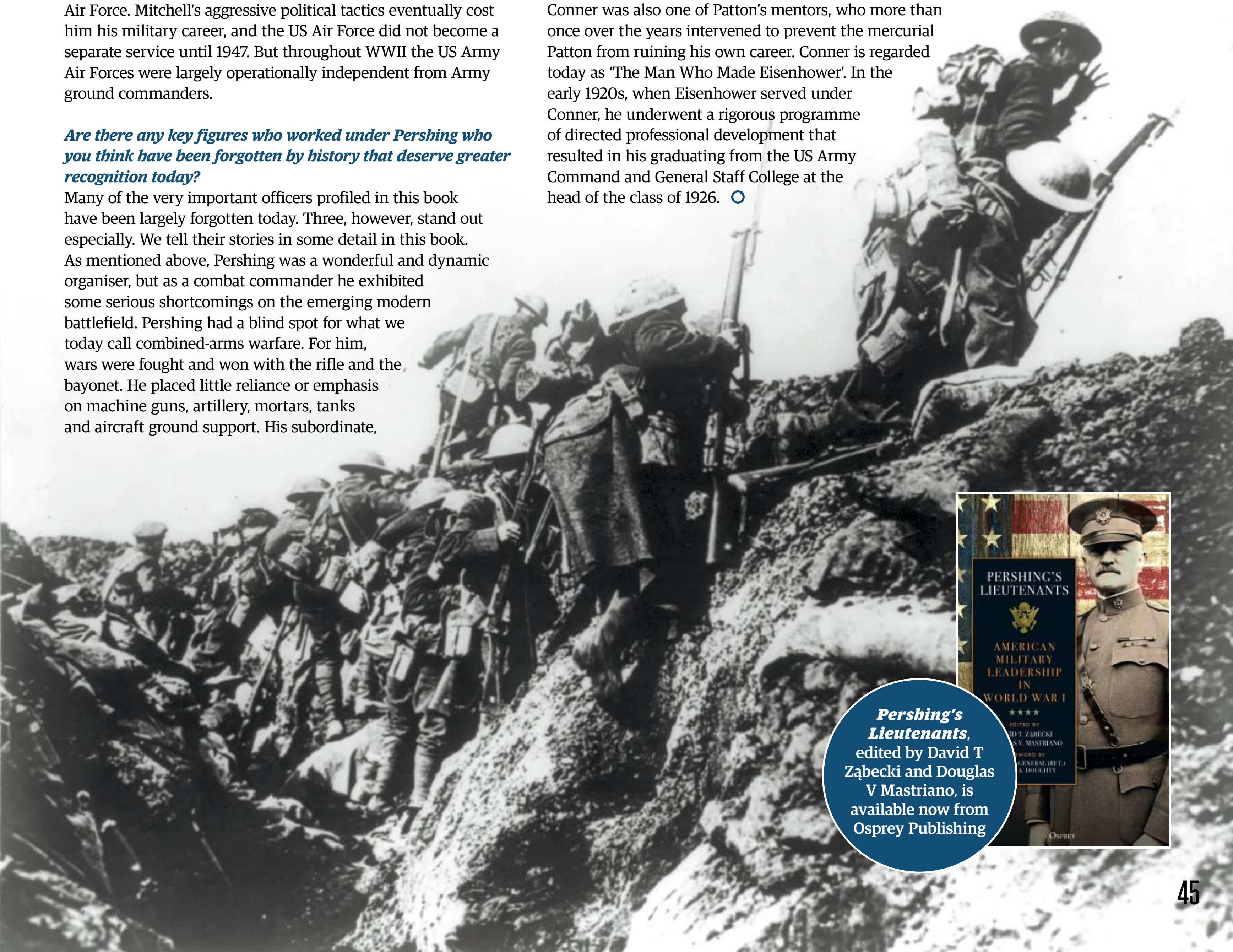
Many of the very important officers profiled in this book have been largely forgotten today. Three, however, stand out especially. We tell their stories in some detail in this book. As mentioned above, Pershing was a wonderful and dynamic organiser, but as a combat commander he exhibited some serious shortcomings on the emerging modern battlefield. Pershing had a blind spot for what we today call combined-arms warfare. For him, wars were fought and won with the rifle and the bayonet. He placed little reliance or emphasis on machine guns, artillery, mortars, tanks and aircraft ground support. His subordinate, Hunter Liggett, had a far better appreciation of the modern battlefield. Liggett commanded US I Corps, and in the middle of the Meuse-Argonne Campaign (September-November 1918), Liggett assumed command of US First Army from Pershing. With the creation of US Second Army, Pershing concentrated more on his role as an army group commander. Once Liggett took over, the entire way the First Army fought changed for the better, with the careful integration and coordination of all the elements of combat power. Liggett was the most skilful American battlefield general of the war.

Marshall is quite rightly remembered as America's 'Architect of Victory' in World War II. But contrary to popular belief today, he did not start to rebuild the US Army from ground zero on the day he assumed office as chief of staff. His predecessor Craig laid a great deal of the groundwork for Marshall. Most importantly, Craig hand-picked and groomed Marshall to be his successor. Craig, more than anyone else, was responsible for Marshall being selected as his successor over the heads of 32 more senior general officers.

During the inter-war years Conner was the US Army's 'Mentor to the Stars'. As early as WWI, when he was the AEF's chief of operations, he was an early mentor of Marshall, responsible for Marshall's assignment as First Army chief of operations. Conner was also one of Patton's mentors, who more than once over the years intervened to prevent the mercurial Patton from ruining his own career. Conner is regarded today as 'The Man Who Made Eisenhower'. In the early 1920s, when Eisenhower served under Conner, he underwent a rigorous programme of directed professional development that resulted in his graduating from the US Army Command and General Staff College at the head of the class of 1926.

LEFT US forces celebrate the Armistice agreement

BELOW The arrival of US forces to the Western Front, some 10,000 a day, helped to relieve the battle-weary Allied forces in the trenches



PERSHING'S LIEUTENANTS
AMERICAN MILITARY LEADERSHIP IN WORLD WAR I
OSPREY

Pershing's Lieutenants, edited by David T Ząbecki and Douglas V Mastriano, is available now from Osprey Publishing

KRAMPUS

YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT!

Written by Callum McKelvie

Scared? You should be! We delve into the mysterious origins of one of the strangest characters of Christmas folklore

You try to run, but your little legs won't quite go as fast as you need them to. Tears stain your cheeks as you desperately look for your parents. All around you the flames dance as sinister horned shapes run between them. You tried so, so hard to be good this year, honestly you did. You did all your homework, ate all your greens and even helped with the chores. None of that matters now, though. You had hoped for a gift from St Nicholas this Christmas but now you're being hunted. Hunted by Krampus, for this is his night.

The Krampus Runs of the Alpine regions of Europe have become legendary and a popular alternative Christmas attraction for tourists with an interest in a more satanic side to Santa. Taking place several weeks before Christmas Day, parents take their children to a parade that sees kindly St Nick accompanied by an altogether more demonic creature. If you've been good, St Nicholas might reward you with a gift - but if you've been naughty Krampus will track you down. Once a subject of obscure folklore, Krampus has become a modern phenomenon having made the transition from Europe to the United States. He was the subject of the 2015 movie *Krampus*, ten direct-to-DVD films, and has appeared in episodes of TV shows such as *Supernatural* and *Inside No.9*. Yet this transition has sidelined him mostly as a cult figure,

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BELOW At Xmas the Krampus Runs see people dressing up as the evil figure

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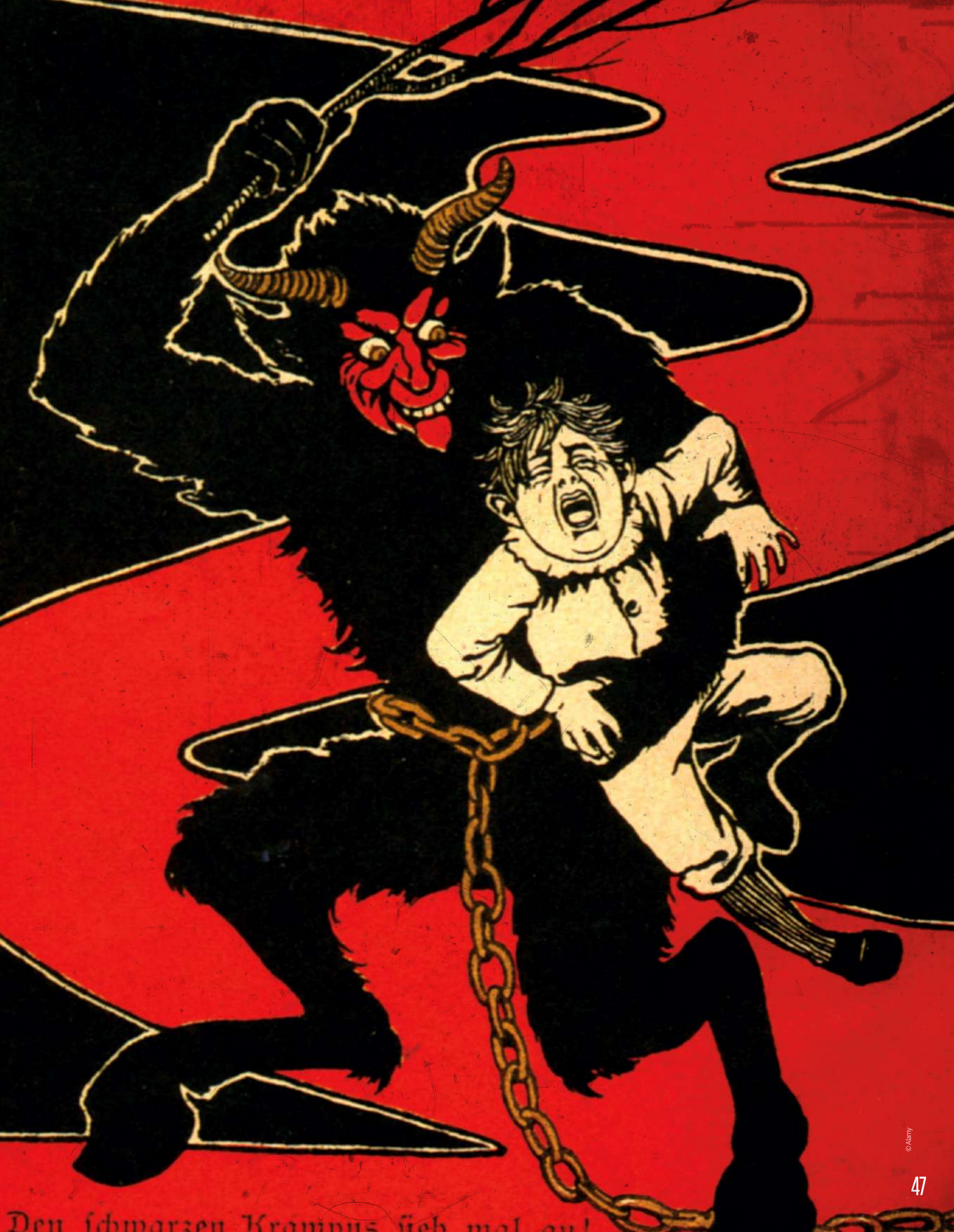

Den ſchwarzen Krampus ſieh mal an!

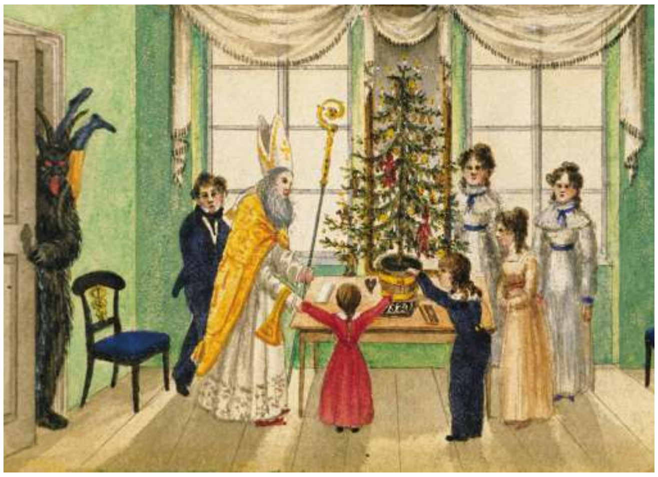
© Alamy

a modern horror icon with comic books and action figures. Of Krampus's folkloric origin, only vague hints and whispers remain. Yet in Europe, Krampus is alive and well, still haunting the nightmares of naughty children who fear Krampusnacht (Night of the Krampus) most of all.

But just who or what is Krampus? In contemporary American tellings he's presented as something of an anti-Santa but traditionally he's one of a band of 'helpers' who work alongside the saint. In this instance he's very much the yin to Santa's yang. Whereas St Nicholas brings gifts and goodies for the children who've spent the year obeying their parents, Krampus brings beatings… or possibly something even worse, with some early stories describing how he would drag naughty children straight to hell. Monte Beauchamp, who helped bring the character into the American public consciousness when he published a book of Krampus postcards in the early 1990s, explained in a 2012 interview with *Collectors Weekly* that: "He [Krampus] is St Nikolaus' companion. In America, Santa Claus has elves, whereas in Europe, St Nikolaus - from which Santa was derived - has Krampus. St Nikolaus would bring treats and small gifts for the children who'd been good all year, and those that had behaved badly were visited by Krampus."

> “THE KRAMPUS RUNS OF THE ALPINE REGIONS OF EUROPE HAVE BECOME LEGENDARY AND A POPULAR ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS ATTRACTION FOR TOURISTS”

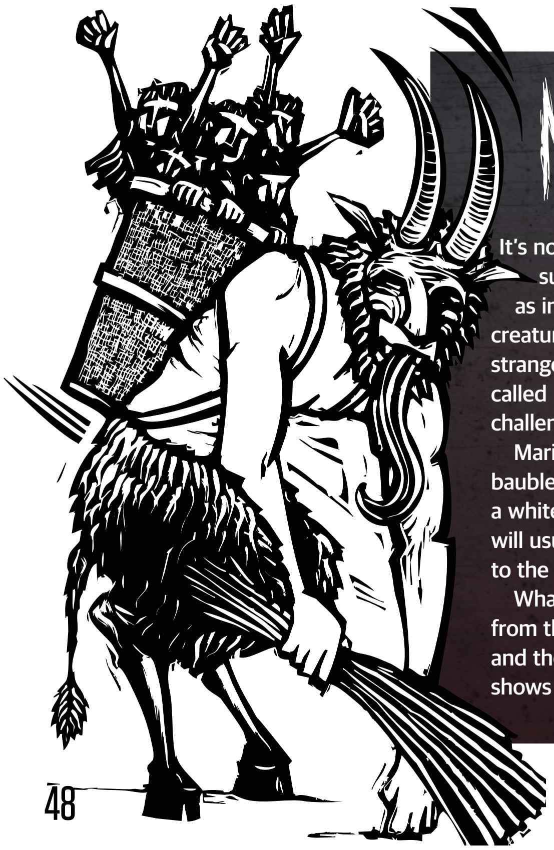
Indeed, the figure is part of a long European tradition in which St Nicholas and his numerous 'helpers' appear at festivals and parades. The majority of these occur on 6 December, known as the Feast Day of St Nicholas, the fourth-century bishop of Myra and the original 'Santa Claus'. The patron saint of children, these events quickly became focussed on fun and frivolity, with men dressing up as St Nicholas and his many helpers, including Krampus. In Munich, this event is thought to have begun in the 16th century when schoolchildren, choir masters and teachers would dress up as the beast and cause well-meaning chaos. At the same time, there are stories of boys in a Jesuit school receiving a visitor dressed as St Nicholas who would distribute treats, possibly the origin of our modern day 'store Santas'.



5x © Getty Images

ABOVE This creepy illustration shows a family visited by St Nicholas as Krampus sneaks in to spoil the festive fun

However, whereas we have a very clear genesis for the kindly St Nicholas, the origins of Krampus, somewhat befitting of a mythical figure, remain shrouded in mystery. As a result, folklorists remain unable to agree on any exact starting point for the creature. Numerous sources suggest that he may have pre-Christian origins, noting the similarity between the appearance of Krampus and the Horned God of some pagan religions, later used as a deity in some forms of Wicca. However, this seems to have very little grounding in fact. As proposed by classicist, Spencer Alexander McDaniel, it's more than likely that this idea originated with Maurice Bruce in his 1958 article entitled *Krampus In Styria* and tied to Margaret Murray's now-outdated theories regarding pre-Christian witchcraft. In 1921 Murray published *The Witch Cult In Western Europe* in which she hypothesised that witches belonged to a goddess-worshipping fertility cult that was active throughout much of the Middle Ages and operated secretly in Christian Europe. This theory took off and became popular in the public consciousness. But writing in



MARI LWYD

At Christmas the streets of Wales are haunted by a ghostly skeletal horse

It's not just continental Europe that's visited by supernatural apparitions on the eve of Christmas, as in Britain we too have our fair share of peculiar creatures who walk the streets. In Wales, one of the strangest traditions involves a skeletal horse puppet called Mari Lwyd, who travels from house to house challenging individuals to a rhyming battle.

Mari is usually represented as having lights or baubles for eyes, a mane of colourful streamers and a white cloak falling from her skull. The spooky horse will usually parade around the village before venturing to the local public house.

What figures march alongside Mari vary. Illustrations from the 1800s depict individuals in their best clothes, and the photo here (inset) from the Edwardian era shows a man in top hat and smart attire. Some versions feature her accompanied by a Punch and Judy who (similar to some Morris Dancers) have been known to wear blackened faces

Image source: wiki/ Frederic Evans

The origins of Mari are shrouded in mystery. Like her devilish Austrian counterpart Krampus, many believe her to be of pagan origin, but some scholars think that there may be a link to the Nativity. An obscure story related to the birth of Christ involves a horse being sent out of the stable so that Mary would be able to give birth to Jesus. The horse then wandered the land looking for somewhere to have her foal.

The Witchcraft Reader, Jacqueline Simpson stated: "Among scholars, her reputation is deservedly low; her theory that witches were members of a huge secret society preserving a prehistoric fertility cult through the centuries is now seen to be based on deeply flawed methods and illogical arguments."

In his article, Bruce similarly makes jumps of logic, assuming that the birch rods carried by Krampus (shown in many of the illustrations) "may have a connection with the initiation rites of certain witch-covens". More likely, the rods were featured in illustrations as an indication of the beatings that Krampus was said to deliver to the naughty children he took to his lair. However, the pagan concept of Ruten (a brandished bunch of birch sticks), has more recently been cited as a possibly symbolic origin.

While Krampus' origin may be a mystery, he's just one of a long line of other similar and sinister figures who haunt the night of St Nicholas, depending on where in the world you might be. Other examples of this include France's Père Fouettard (translating as 'The Whipping Father'). Fouettard's origin story, which dates back to 1150, is particularly gruesome. Supposedly a butcher, Fouettard is said to have captured three young boys on their way to a religious boarding school. Robbing them of their money, he proceeded to cut their throats and, obviously being familiar with the old adage 'waste not want not', salted the meat ready for that night's dinner. However, St Nicholas appeared at his door, which perhaps led to Fouettard being an innkeeper in some variations on the story. Seeking to appease his guest, Fouettard offered him a cut of his best meat. However, perhaps spying a stray piece of homework among his prime cut, St Nicholas became suspicious. Ruining dinner, he resurrected the boys returning them to their parents and as punishment Fouettard became 'Father Whipper'. Now he serves much the same function as Krampus, delivering punishment to naughty children.

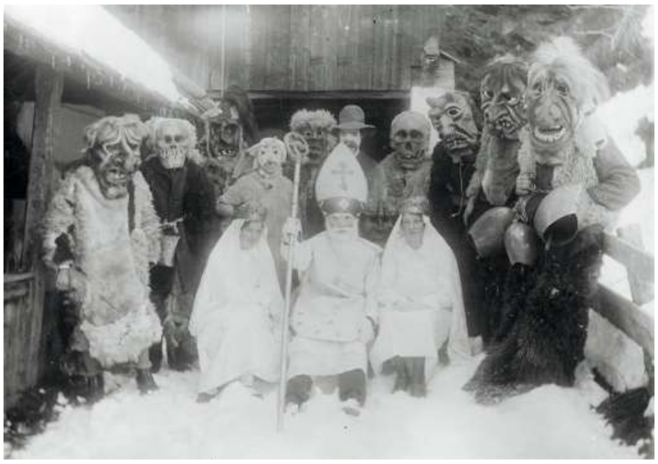
Perhaps the most controversial of all these figures is the Netherlands' Zwarte Piet, or 'Black Pete'. Supposedly of Moorish descent, he would arrive by boat every year with Sinterklaas (Dutch Santa) and kidnap bad children, taking them back to Spain. Now the figure remains controversial due to festivals that involve adults wearing blackface, and numerous protests have been held to oppose them.

However, it's Krampus who endures the most. This is due no doubt to the Krampuslauf (translating literally as the 'Krampus Run'), the event mentioned earlier that's held on the Feast of St Nicholas which continues to this day. The traditions within the runs vary from county to county and from town to town, but the core remains the same. Adults dress up in Krampus costumes, usually consisting of full-body suits and elaborate masks, and cause chaos. In recent years the runs have attracted much attention due to the large amount of alcohol involved, which has caused some of the Krampuses to get a little too enthusiastic.

But for any attendee not wishing to get too physically involved, there's still much to enjoy. The elaborate masks (referred to as 'Larven', coming from the Latin 'larva' and simultaneously meaning both 'mask' and 'ghost') attract a lot of attention and are prized by their owners. Compared to those worn today, the earliest known examples were incredibly simplistic, sometimes consisting of a face covering made of cloth or a simple carved mask. Now, the masks are intricately hand-carved by 'Larvenschnitzers' (mask carvers) who usually prefer traditional methods over modern tools.

While there's a smattering of earlier examples, the craft as it exists today truly began in the 1930s when an unemployed sculptor, Sepp Lang, first turned his hand to carving a Krampus mask, and it's to him that much of the contemporary style of mask is attributed. Lang reinterpreted the creature and took little inspiration from the designs featured on postcards or in books, instead crafting beautiful works with large and ornate horns and oversized gaping jaws. Sometimes Lang's creations were not even designed to be worn but were crafted for an ever-growing tourist market, which kept him in a steady income. Now, Krampus mask-makers create more and more elaborate designs and costumes, and a lucrative collectors' market has emerged for masks carved in the traditional style, with some professional carvers making around 100 masks a year.

Yet despite having an eager collectors' market and thriving tourist industry built around the runs, Krampus doesn't have a monopoly on them. Tyrol and Salzburg in Austria also have another tradition involving devils and demons that occurs around the winter solstice. This too is believed to have pre-Christian pagan origins, although the connection is slightly more believable. This festival centres around the goddess Frau Perchta, a half-goat half-woman god who represents the duality between good and evil. In the winter months she is said to hike across the mountains with a gang of evil spirits,



TOP A 1935 photograph showing St Nicholas and several Krampuses in Matrei, East Tyrol

ABOVE Krampus meets his match – this baby isn't the least bit scared of the evil ghoul!

BELOW Krampus on the loose in Austria during a typically anarchic Krampus Run

▶

KRAMPUS ON THE COAST

Krampus heads north for a ghostly good time

Since Krampus' recent rise in popularity, numerous Krampus Runs have begun to take place in towns and cities where the mysterious creature was hitherto unknown. One of the most surprising of these is a run that takes place in the town of Whitby in the north of England. Beginning in 2015, the event bases itself on the traditional Austrian and European runs and usually takes place around 7 December. The free event has previously taken over the east side of Whitby, turning this area into 'Krampus Town'. The event has also sought to weave in local folklore alongside the European figure, with some costumes using articles found on the beach. Usually run as a fundraiser for numerous local charities, the event has seen a steady rise in popularity since its beginnings.

5x © Getty Images

visiting towns as she goes. These 'Perchten' runs are designed to chase out evil spirits and banish them, and feature both ugly and beautiful Perchten representing the dual nature of the goddess. The beautiful Perchten are represented by men carrying large figures on their shoulders, which can be as tall as six feet. These figures bow at the spectators and dance, but the ugly Perchten are altogether more terrifying and, like Krampus, get up to all sorts of mischief. Some of these costumes were originally made from sheep's pelts, where as today's versions are intricately woven from corn leaves from northern Italy. These costumes are topped with a traditional hand-carved mask that can weigh around 30kg. The suit is then ordained with bells, chains and drums, and all together the costumes can weigh up to 100kg.

BELOW A traditional Larvenschnitzer working on a Krampus mask

Krampus has also shown his versatility in adapting to new mediums, regularly being reinterpreted and revitalising interest in the creature. One such example occurred with the birth of mass-print media and the rise of the Christmas card across Europe. In the so-called 'Golden Age of Postcards', which began in the late 1890s, Krampus was a regular fixture on many designs. With the earliest known example appearing in 1893, the creature soon cemented his place in European Christmas mythology and was regularly depicted alongside St Nicholas or on his own. Some of the most striking examples utilised a process called chromolithography and were made by the famous Wiener Werkstätte, which was founded in 1903 by architect Josef Hoffmann, graphic designer and painter Koloman Moser, and the patron Fritz Waerndorfer. The Wiener Werkstätte's striking designs created a stunning 'Art Nouveau' Krampus.

> **"WE HAVE A CLEAR GENESIS FOR ST NICHOLAS, BUT THE ORIGINS OF KRAMPUS, SOMEWHAT BEFITTING OF A MYTHICAL FIGURE, REMAIN SHROUDED IN MYSTERY"**

Many of the main postcard publishing houses were destroyed along with their work during the World Wars, and as such any surviving cards are now highly prized by collectors. One such enthusiast, Monte Beauchamp, brought them back into the public consciousness when he published *Krampus: The Devil Of Christmas* in 2010, which depicted some of the best examples of pre-WWI Krampus postcards.

Of course, as might be expected of a demonic figure, Krampus has many enemies. Chief among them is the Catholic Church. Numerous sources state that during the time of the Spanish Inquisition the Church banned dressing up as a devilish figure, bringing a halt to the Krampus Runs. The figure's supposed pagan origins doubtless came into question as well, along with the chains that he is often pictured carrying, which were believed by some to indicate the bonds of the Devil.

Centuries later during World War II, Krampus found himself with a new enemy: the Nazis. For reasons that are somewhat hard to pinpoint, Krampus and his various traditions were considered to be the creation of the fascists' enemies, most explicitly the Social Democrats. The implication appears to be that he was designed to demoralise the German population, and the result was that Krampus in any form was banned. The runs were halted and depicting him on postcards or in costumes was strictly forbidden. For a party that was obsessed with Teutonic ritual and Germanic tradition, the Nazis were rather picky when it came to Christmas.

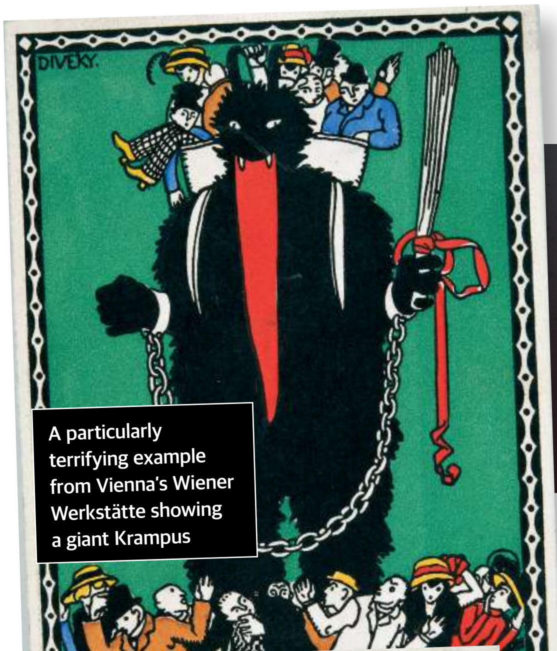
Today, Krampus' lair isn't in the depths of the earth – it's in movies, books and comics. In 2015, Universal Pictures released *Krampus*, directed by Michael Dougherty. He may have seemed the perfect choice after directing the ultimate Halloween film *Trick 'r Treat* in 2007, which drew somewhat on that holiday's folklore and customs, but unfortunately the same approach was not brought to *Krampus*. While still an entertaining horror comedy with shades of *Gremlins*, the film faltered when it came to the folkloric origins of Krampus. To begin with, the film's creature looks little like the Krampus of legend, instead acting more like Santa Claus' evil twin brother (squeezing down chimney's, having elvish helpers, and so on).

Indeed, Al Ridenour, author of *The Krampus And The Old, Dark Christmas: Roots And Rebirth Of The Folkloric Devil* states that the film visualises Krampus as "an oversized hunchbacked being in a red fur-trimmed robe, white bearded, and with a ghoulish but human face resembling a rather exhausted Santa Claus". Perhaps most distressingly the film paints Krampus as a creature of Germanic origin, and while Ridenour is keen to remind us that he does have provenance here, this is confined to the south – Krampus's real home is in Austria and Bavaria. And the less said about straight-to-DVD efforts such as *Krampus: The Reckoning* the better!

As Krampus becomes more and more popularised the hope of more scholarly research into his origins is increasingly likely. For a creature whose folkloric tradition casts a large shadow over Austria and Europe's Yuletide celebrations, it seems bizarre that there is still so much that remains a mystery about him. Yet, of course, the obvious answer is maybe that's just the way Krampus likes it – after all, the unknown is always much more terrifying. So as you're putting away your copy of *All About History* or perhaps flicking through to the next article, just ask yourself – have you been nice or naughty this year? ○

KRAMPUS CARDS

Five Krampus postcards that were produced at the turn of the century



A particularly terrifying example from Vienna's Wiener Werkstätte showing a giant Krampus

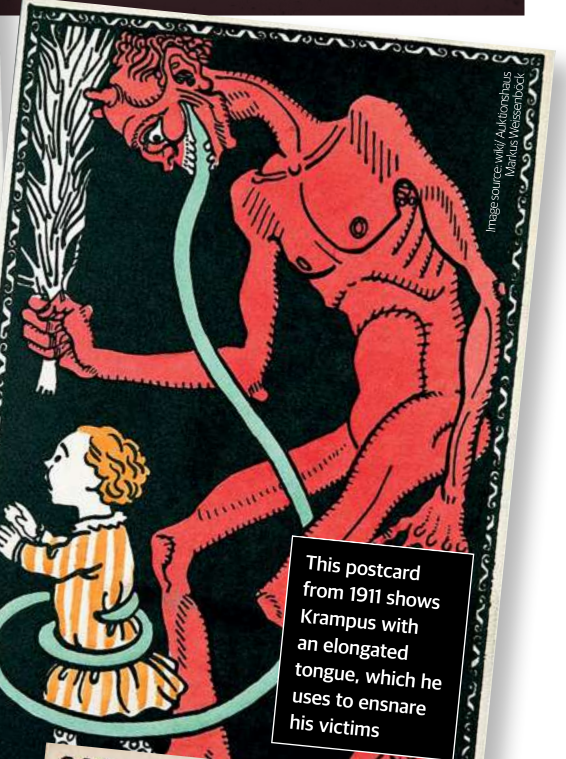
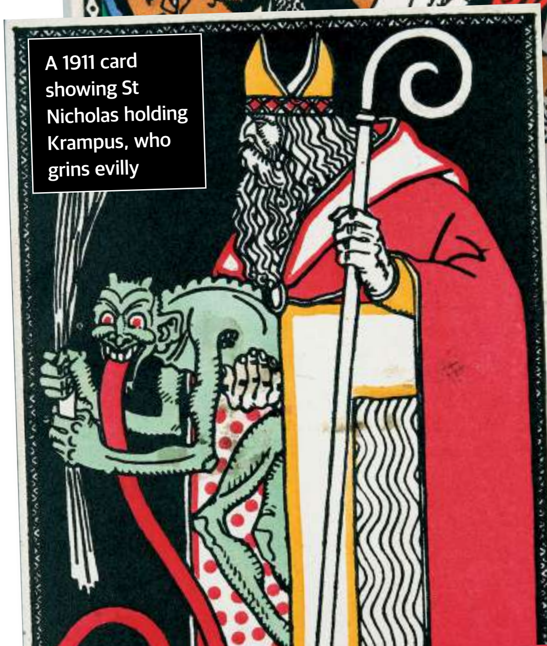


Image source: wiki/ Auktionshaus Markus Weissenböck

This postcard from 1911 shows Krampus with an elongated tongue, which he uses to ensnare his victims



A 1911 card showing St Nicholas holding Krampus, who grins evilly

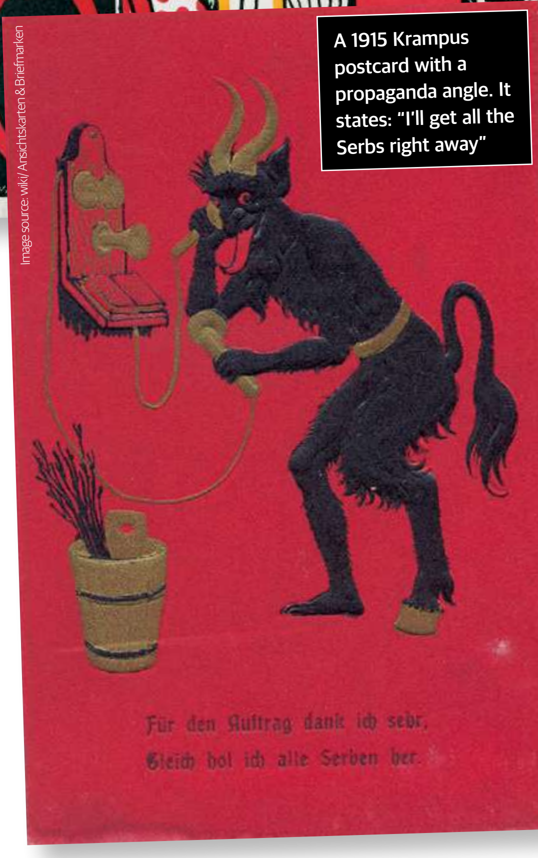
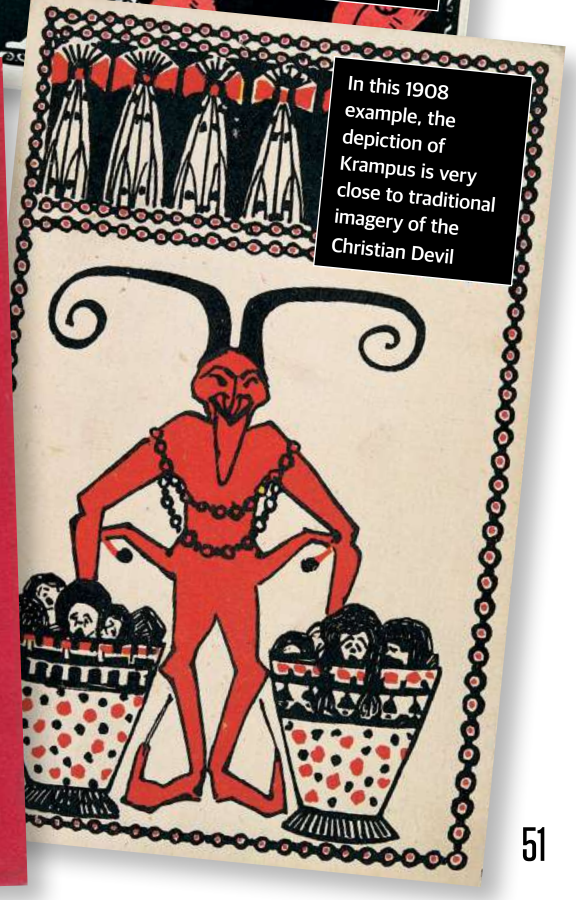
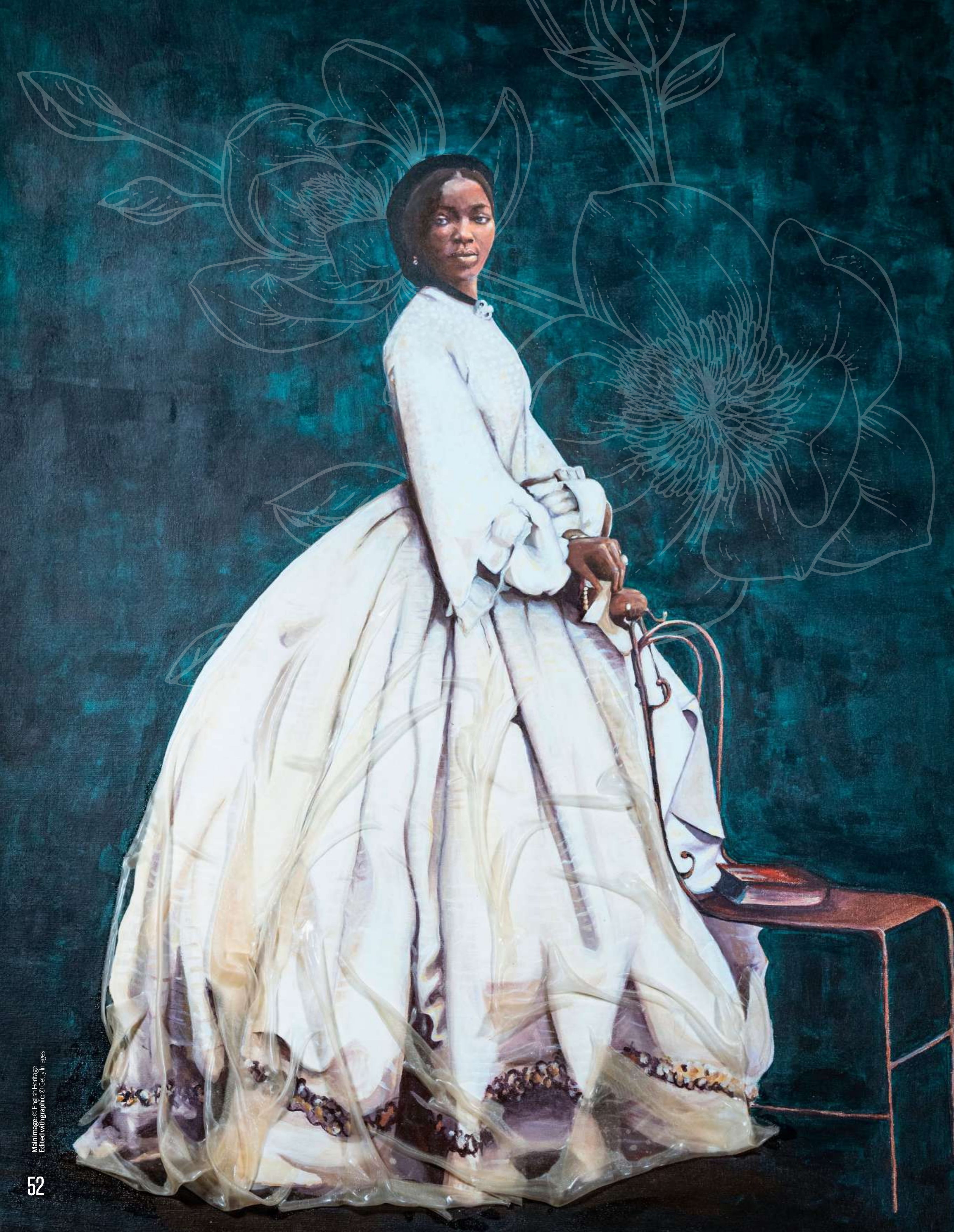

Für den Auftrag dank ich sehr,
Gleich hol ich alle Serben her.

Image source: wiki/ Ansichtskarten & Briefmarken

A 1915 Krampus postcard with a propaganda angle. It states: "I'll get all the Serbs right away"



In this 1908 example, the depiction of Krampus is very close to traditional imagery of the Christian Devil



Main image: © English Heritage
Edited with graphic: © Getty Images

Queen Victoria's Black Goddaughter

The unbelievable story of Sarah Forbes Bonetta, the captive African girl who became a royal protégée

Written by Jessica Leggett

Even though Sarah Forbes Bonetta, the black goddaughter of Queen Victoria, had a remarkable life, it's not widely known. However, it's been brought into the spotlight thanks to a new project by English Heritage, and we spoke to Anna Eavis, curatorial director of English Heritage, to learn more about Sarah's story.

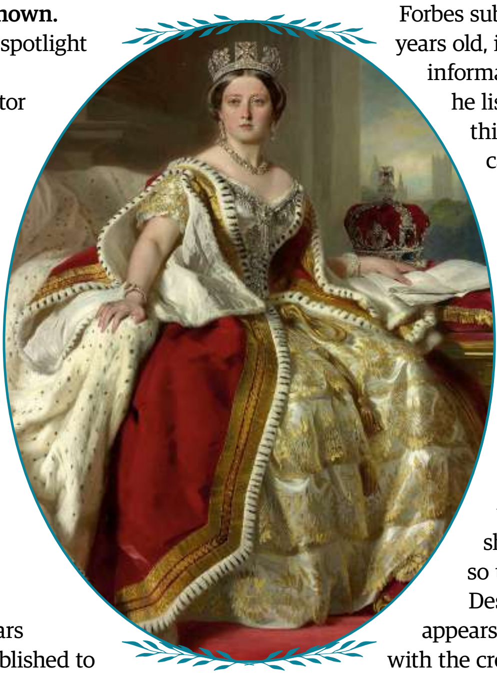
She was born in West Africa, in the south-west of modern-day Nigeria, in around 1843. When she was about five, her life was upended when the forces of King Gezo of Dahomey (located within present-day Benin) raided her home, murdered her parents and took her captive. "The king of Dahomey was still participating in slaving, so he was working with a Portuguese slave trader who would take captured people and sell them on," explains Eavis. "Sarah was not transported anywhere as she was five years old and she was kept at the king's court, presumably to later become a slave there, but we don't know that."

Meanwhile Britain – one of the most successful and dominant countries involved in the transatlantic slave trade – had finally abolished it throughout its empire with the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833. Twenty-five years earlier, the West Africa Squadron (WAS) had been established to patrol the coasts of West Africa to suppress the slave traders in the Atlantic. To this end, British naval captain Frederick Forbes of the WAS visited Dahomey twice, in 1849 and 1850, to persuade King Gezo to stop participating in the slave trade. Although Forbes failed in his mission, the king offered him a girl – Sarah – to take back with him as a diplomatic gift for Queen Victoria.

Forbes subsequently wrote about Sarah, who was now seven years old, in his accounts and diaries, providing us with some information on her. "They are very jarring accounts because he lists the gifts that he's taking back and he describes this captive girl included in this list of other things, like carpet and some kegs of rum and so on. It's appalling," says Eavis. "On the other hand, he's kindly towards her and he has her baptised before they set sail to come back to England."

Not only was Forbes responsible for Sarah's baptism and taking her to Britain, but he also chose her name. "The name Forbes Bonetta is partly his surname, Forbes, and Bonetta is the name of his ship, so he concocts that surname. I don't know how he arrived at Sarah, but that's how she gets the name by which she's then known," says Eavis. Do we know what Sarah's birth name was? Eavis explains that "on her marriage certificate she wrote her European name but also the name 'Aina', so the assumption is that was her real name".

Despite facing more upheaval in her young life, Sarah appears to have settled on the ship and she was popular with the crew – by the time she arrived in England she was even able to speak some English. Eavis states that Forbes was very impressed with Sarah: "He felt that she was much more intelligent and she had a much better attitude to learning than most White children."



ABOVE
Queen Victoria agreed to take care of Sarah's welfare and education
Image source: wiki/The Royal Collection

A few months after arriving in Britain, Forbes presented Sarah to Queen Victoria on 9 November 1850. The queen describes meeting Sarah – whom she calls 'Sally' – in her journal: "She is seven years old, sharp and intelligent, and speaks English. She was dressed as any other girl. When her bonnet was taken off, her little black woolly head and big earrings gave her the true negro type."

After that meeting, Queen Victoria agreed to take Sarah under her wing, provide for her welfare and fund her education. "I think both Forbes and Queen Victoria and, later on, other White people like her because she's really intelligent and I think that this surprises them, to be honest. They're not expecting a Black African girl to be as accomplished and capable of education as she is, and so they're really keen to support her," says Eavis.

In 1851, Sarah was sent to the Church Missionary Society school in Freetown, Sierra Leone, because, according to Eavis, "It was believed then that the English climate would be difficult for somebody of African origins." This particular school was chosen because both Forbes and the queen believed that Sarah would make an ideal missionary, at a time when missionaries were being sent to Africa to Christianise Africans.

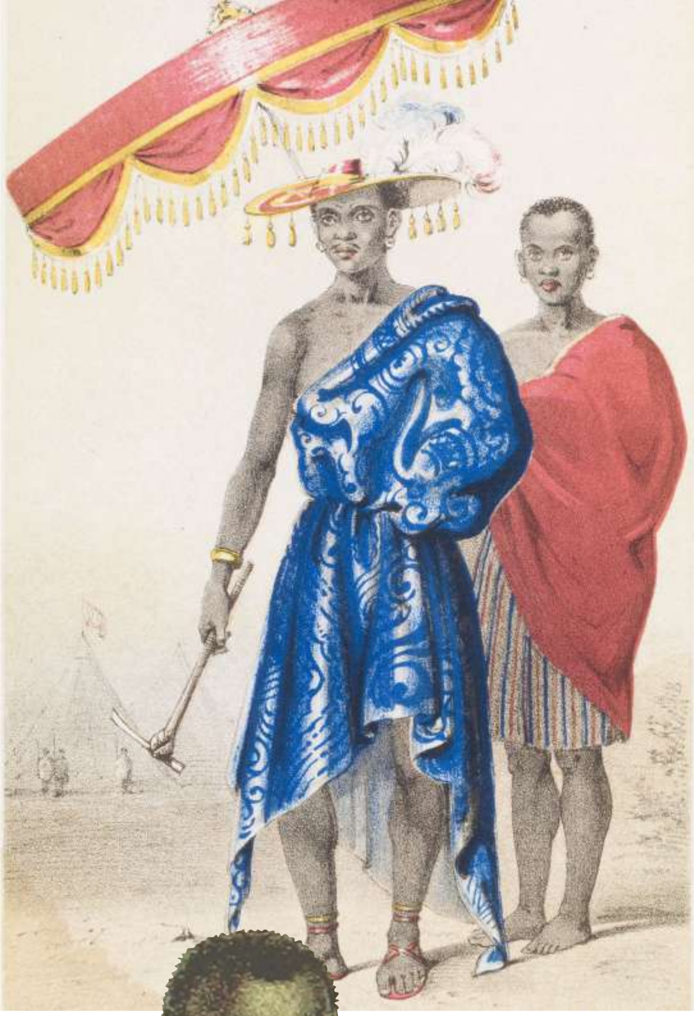
Sarah became very accomplished during her time at the missionary school but she reportedly disliked being there. After four years she returned to Britain, where she paid another visit to the queen, and it's said that she got on well with the royal children. Eventually, she was placed in the care of Miss Sophia Welsh in Brighton, who oversaw Sarah's introduction into British society.

> "Sarah's extraordinary life tells us a lot about how Victorian attitudes to race and cultural identity are being shaped during this period"

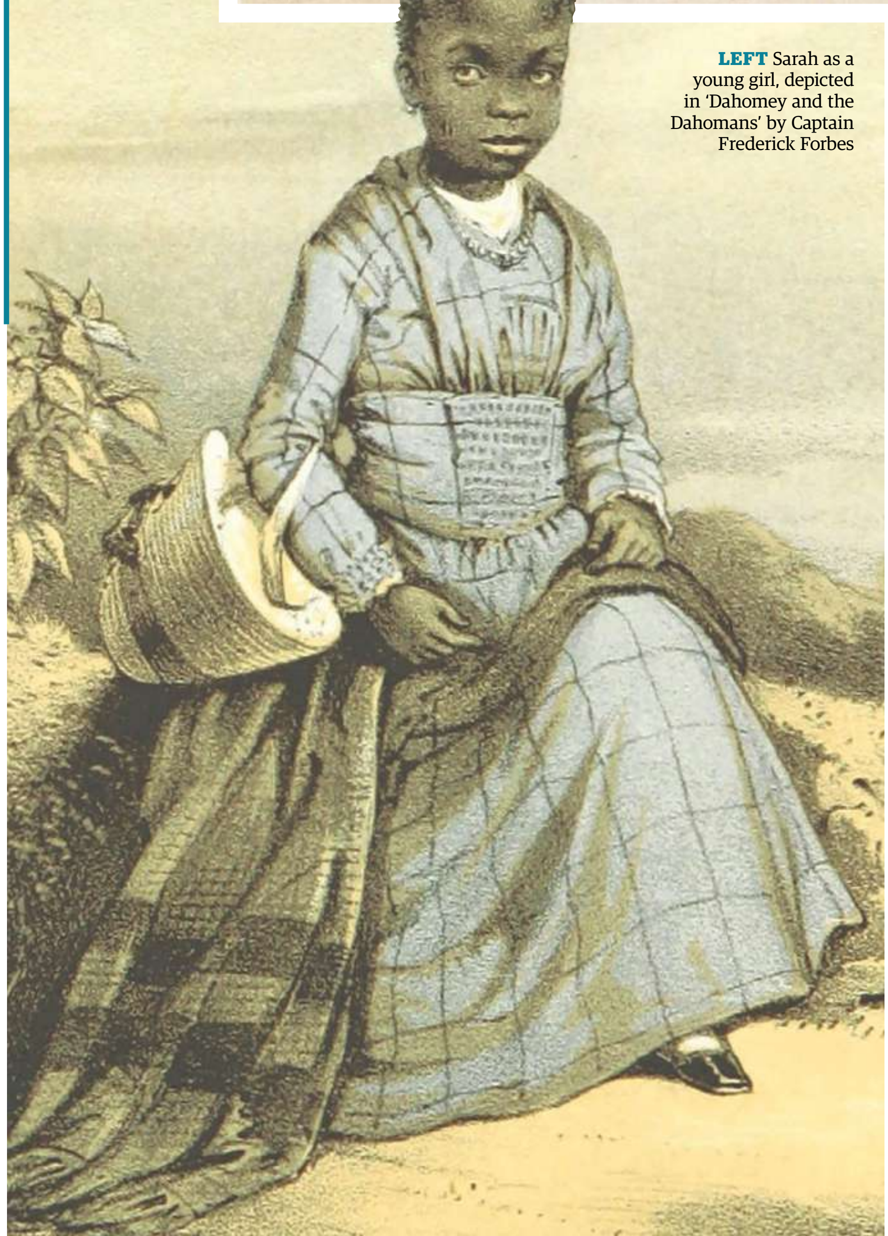
When she was 19, Sarah was approached by James Davies, a 33-year-old widower and merchant from Sierra Leone, who wanted to marry her. He had also been taught at the Christian Missionary Society school and it's thought that they were introduced to each other there, although they barely knew one another. "She didn't really want to marry him and others said, 'You'll learn to love him and he's well off, he's a good catch.' Her reaction was, 'Am I to barter my peace of mind for money? No!'" says Eavis.

Even though Sarah was not keen on marrying Davies, the marriage was deemed favourable and it was approved by Queen Victoria. The couple wed in a lavish ceremony in Brighton on 14 August 1862, with crowds reportedly lining up outside to catch sight of them. "At their wedding… representatives of the Church Missionary Society were there and they spoke about this wonderful moment. There was a great deal of publicity about the wedding in the colonial national press, presenting this union as an example of the great benefit of a Christian education," explains Eavis.

After their wedding, Sarah and her husband were photographed by Camille Silvy in London. Silvy was known for being a celebrity photographer who boasted Queen Victoria as a patron, so the fact that he photographed the newlyweds demonstrates their status in society. The couple moved to Sierra Leone and later to Lagos, where they had three children together over the next decade. Sarah named her eldest daughter Victoria after the queen,



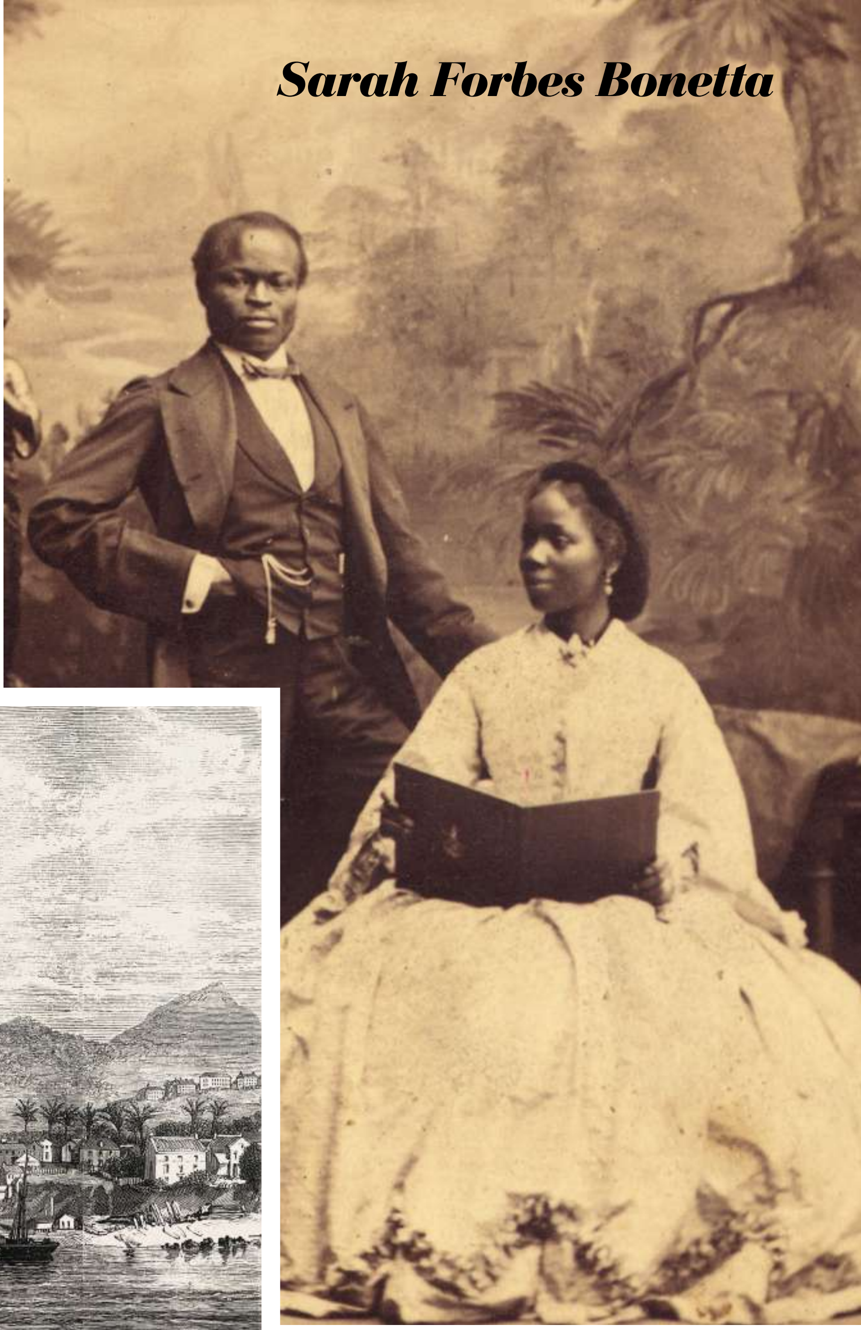
RIGHT A drawing of King Gezo from 'Dahomey and the Dahomans' by Captain Frederick Forbes



LEFT Sarah as a young girl, depicted in 'Dahomey and the Dahomans' by Captain Frederick Forbes

2x © Alamy

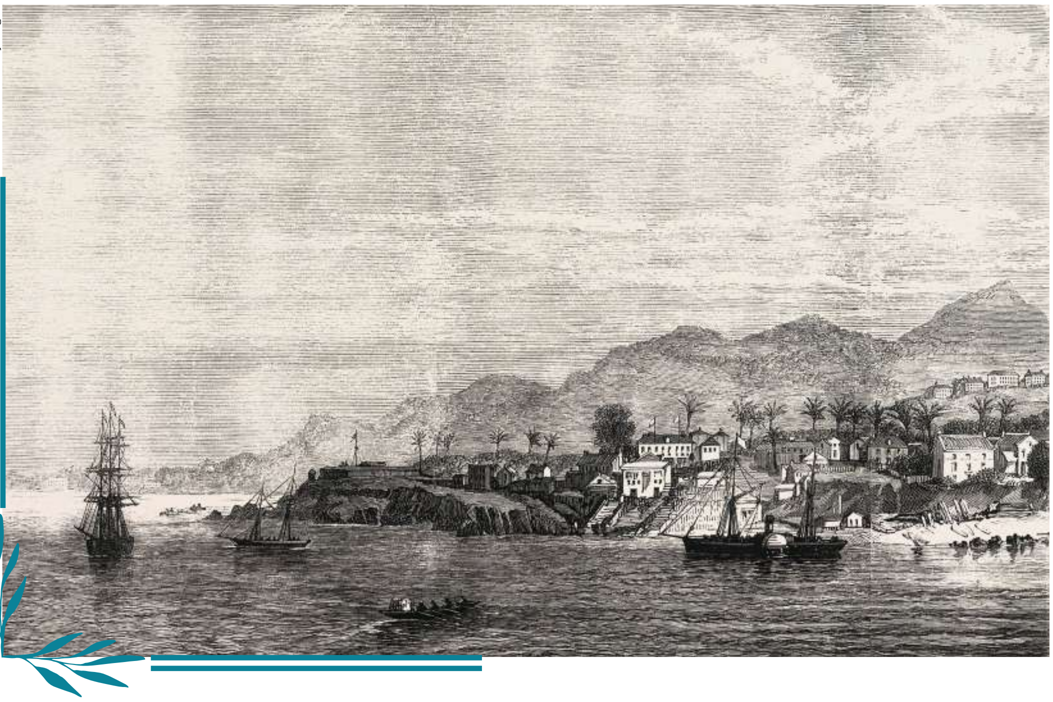
© English Heritage



ABOVE
Artist Hannah Uzor beside her painting of Sarah, on display at Osborne House

BELOW
Sarah was educated in Freetown, Sierra Leone

RIGHT
Sarah and her husband James, photographed by Camille Silvy


2x © Getty Images

who agreed to become the little girl's godmother, with Sarah returning to Britain and presenting her daughter to the monarch in December 1867.

Unfortunately, by the late 1860s it was clear that Sarah was suffering from tuberculosis and she moved to Madeira in the hope that the climate would improve her health. Sadly, she succumbed to her illness on 15 August 1880, at the age of just 37. Her daughter, Victoria, heard the news while on her way to see the queen at Osborne House. Queen Victoria later wrote that she "saw poor Victoria Davies, my black godchild, now 17, who heard this morning of the death of her dear mother at Madeira".

Although it was tragically cut short, Sarah's extraordinary life tells us a lot about how Victorian attitudes to race and cultural identity were shaped during this period. "I think the fact that it is happening at the moment after Britain has abolished slavery in its empire is really important because what we're seeing from Forbes, the queen and the Church Missionary Society is a kind of benign interest. Yet that in itself is fraught with some underlying assumptions about Black Africans which are actually very uncomfortable," says Eavis.

To many people, Sarah's education and accomplishments were a social experiment to demonstrate how Africans could become 'civilised' through British guidance and Christian education. "She was very musical, had a beautiful singing and speaking voice, was great company, multilingual and very intelligent – and the Church Missionary Society was very proud of that," says Eavis.

Sarah's life was not only a matter of interest in Britain but also across the Atlantic. "She was held up as a sort of poster girl, not only by the Church Missionary Society but by campaigners for abolition in the States, who were pointing to her and saying look, Black people should be educated and look at what can be achieved – that was coming from Black American abolitionists. So it's a complex picture in terms of the range of attitudes to Sarah and that complexity is really important to reflect on," says Eavis.

Many people are now discovering Sarah's story thanks to English Heritage's project to display paintings of 'overlooked' Black figures connected with its properties. A new portrait of Sarah, in her wedding dress, has been painted by artist Hannah Uzor and is now on display at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, the former holiday home of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

About the importance of this project, Eavis states, "We did some research a few years ago partly about slave trade links to our sites but also looking at the evidence for Black presence at our sites, and that work revealed a number of names… We wanted to build on that and feel that it's important to be giving visibility to the historic presence of Black people in this country because there are many assumptions about the degree to which British society did have people of colour in it historically."

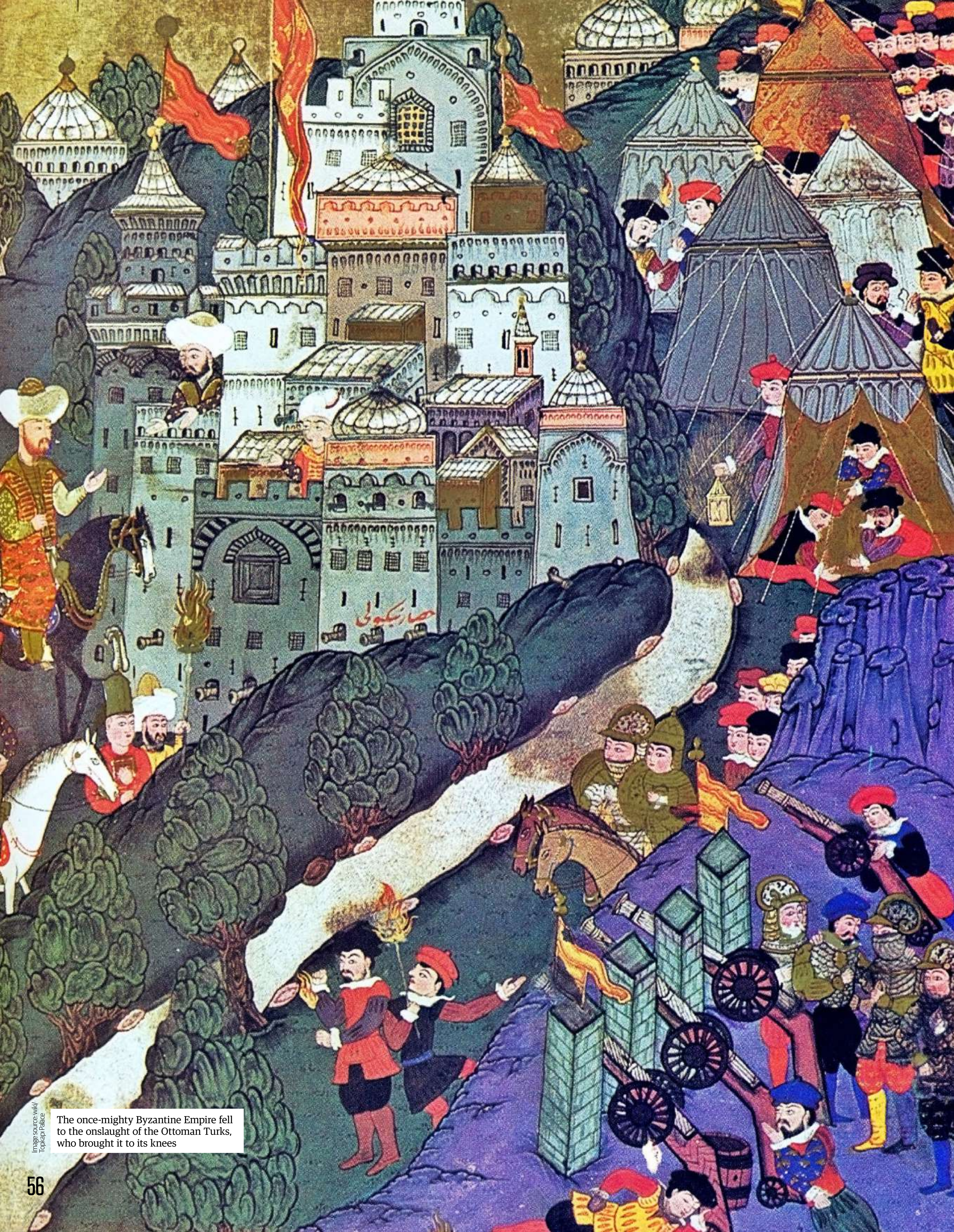


Image source: wiki/ Topkapi Palace

The once-mighty Byzantine Empire fell to the onslaught of the Ottoman Turks, who brought it to its knees

Rebuilding the Silk Road

It allowed for the expansion of trade and wealth, but these famed routes faced a steep decline before they were once again reborn

Written by Catherine Curzon

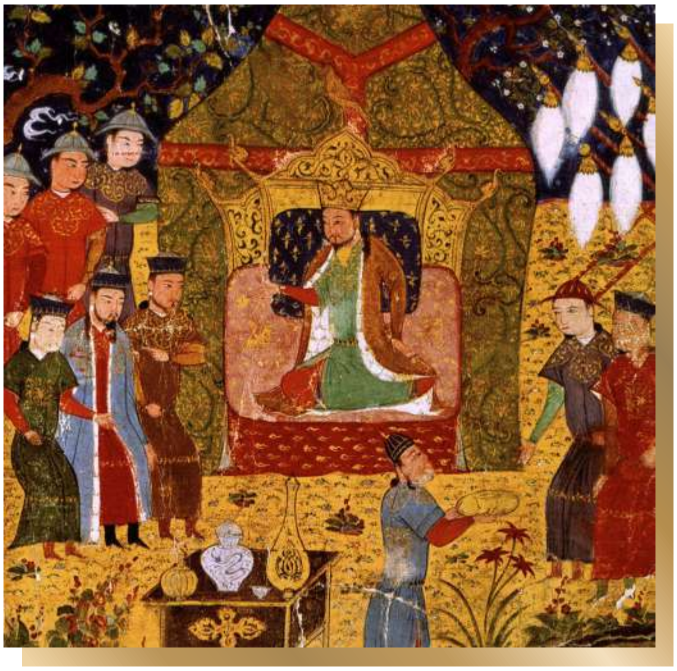
Over centuries, the Silk Road became one of the most important trade routes in the world. It connected the Far East to the world beyond, and allowed culture, philosophy and art to reach new audiences just as it brought trade to new lands. Yet the Silk Road was hazardous and, as those who used it found to their cost, subject to the shifting balance of sometimes unstable power.

For nearly two centuries, the continent was ravaged by the Byzantine-Ottoman Wars as the Christian Byzantine Empire came under repeated and ultimately devastating attack from the Muslim Ottoman Turks. The Byzantine Empire was riven with internal division and external conflicts. It was ripe for conquer and the Ottomans were swift to take advantage. During the 14th century they moved through Byzantine territory, taking it bit by bit.

Along the Silk Road were many important destinations, but few were as vital as Constantinople, the capital city of the crumbling Byzantine Empire. Constantinople was a vastly wealthy trading hub and it lay at the end of the Silk Road. From here, goods could leave the harbour for transit across the world. Chief among them was silk, which the Byzantines imported for a fortune until they discovered the secret of its production themselves, and began exporting it. The strategic position and wealth of Constantinople had once made the Byzantine Empire one to be reckoned with, but it had also made it a target.

Constantinople survived assaults by the armies of would-be invaders, but in 1453, the end came for the once great city. As the Ottoman Empire grew, it chipped away at Byzantine territory until Constantinople stood almost alone, ready for its last stand. When the Ottoman force launched a brutal assault on the city, barraging the walls with artillery, Constantinople fell to an army that outnumbered Byzantine troops by almost 200,000. Once the city was in their hands, the Ottomans immediately shored up existing trading routes, but used their dominance of the region and its maritime and overland routes to increase the cost of doing business to merchants. Muslims now controlled both of the major ports that were used to take Silk Road goods into western Europe by sea and any previous arrangements, all of which had been preferential to Christian traders, were set aside under the regime. Now Christians were hit with the highest import fees of all, as a little reminder that it had been a bad decision to bet against the Ottoman Empire. Once the port had bristled with Italian trading vessels and the wealth they brought in, but as fees and overheads soared to unaffordable levels, the traffic began to decline.

> "The strategic position and wealth of Constantinople had once made the Byzantine Empire one to be reckoned with, but it had also made it a target"



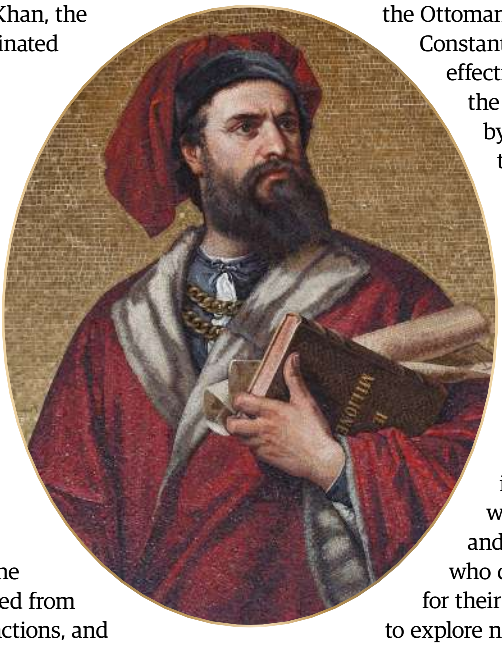
ABOVE Under the leadership of Genghis Khan, the Mongol Empire dominated the Silk Road for generations. When it fell, different factions took over stretches of the road

Image source: wiki/PM History

It was the beginning of the end for the Silk Road and even where the road left the city by land, not sea, things were no easier. Stretching for over 11,000 sometimes perilous kilometres, the Silk Road crossed many territories, encountering innumerable religious beliefs and political allegiances. The safety of the Silk Road and access to it for travellers and merchants was subject to the wills of those who controlled the land through which it ran and sometimes, unsurprisingly, there were tensions. Islam was the predominant faith along the Silk Road, and though Sunni and Shiite Muslims interacted harmoniously and grew their communities together, when factions did disagree, it made the Silk Road a perilous place. The difference of a few kilometres could pitch travellers from one group's territory into another, constantly at risk from factional leaders looking to increase their own power and influence.

> *"The fate of the Silk Road was put in jeopardy by the decline and eventual fall of the Mongol Empire"*

Quite apart from religion, however, the fate of the Silk Road was put in jeopardy by the decline and eventual fall of the Mongol Empire, whose fortunes had been steadily declining as those of the Ottomans grew. Thanks to the efforts of Genghis Khan, the Mongols once dominated a vast part of the Silk Road, having first seized the northern road before heading south. The vast Mongol Empire stretched from China to Europe, and the Silk Road was vital to the empire's communication and trading routes. Under the Pax Mongolica, or Mongolian Peace, the routes were protected from bandits and local factions, and travellers such as Marco Polo took advantage of this period to travel freely.



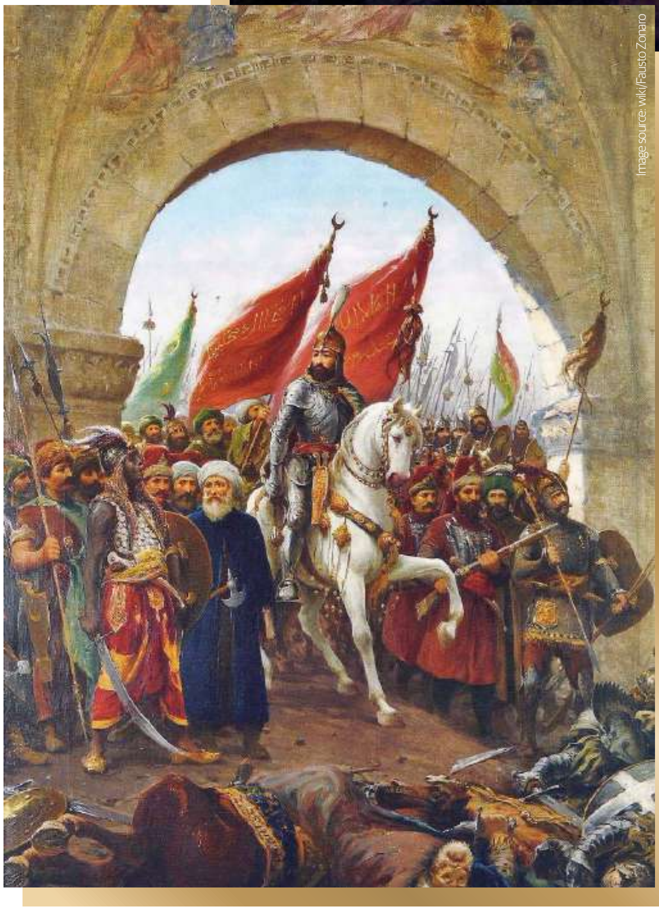
By the time the Byzantine powers were in their death throes, and a century before Constantinople fell, the once mighty Mongol Empire was on its knees, devastated by disease and continued attacks on its power bases. As the empire fragmented, the once safe passage of the Silk Road fell into other hands, with factional warlords assuming control of stretches. Merchants and other travellers were no longer confident of their safety should they travel the Silk Road and there was less merchandise to sell even if they did take the risks, as production of once-exclusive items such as silk was now possible in other lands too, meaning that the demand for Chinese produce lessened significantly. In fact, where travellers had once left China with their bolts of sought-after silks and dominated the distribution of it, by the 14th century, European trading vessels laden with foreign silks were a familiar sight in Chinese ports. Ocean travel was both quicker and more efficient than overland and silk was no longer exclusively produced in China.

In response to these encroaching vessels, China introduced an isolationist policy known as the Haijin, which forbade foreign ships from entering Chinese waters. Land routes began to be far more regulated too, and as isolationism took hold, China closed itself down. Once the Ottoman Empire seized Constantinople, China was effectively cut off from the West, accessible by land only via the declining Silk Road. Even for those who could access the Silk Road, the increasing dangers made it less attractive. With travel on the Silk Road bringing with it danger from warring factions and religions, those who depended on trade for their income or sought to explore new lands were now forced to look elsewhere.

Travellers began to seek new routes to the East that would avoid the hazardous Silk Road, and they were sure that the secret lay in the oceans. They turned to *Ptolemy's Geographical Survey*, which was

BELOW-LEFT During the Age of Discovery, explorers such as Marco Polo used the Silk Road to travel freely through previously unreachable lands

Image source: wiki/Salviati



BELOW By the time Constantinople fell to the Ottomans, Byzantium's power had dwindled to virtually nothing. It was a vital conquest for the Muslim Ottomans

Image source: wiki/Fausto Zonaro

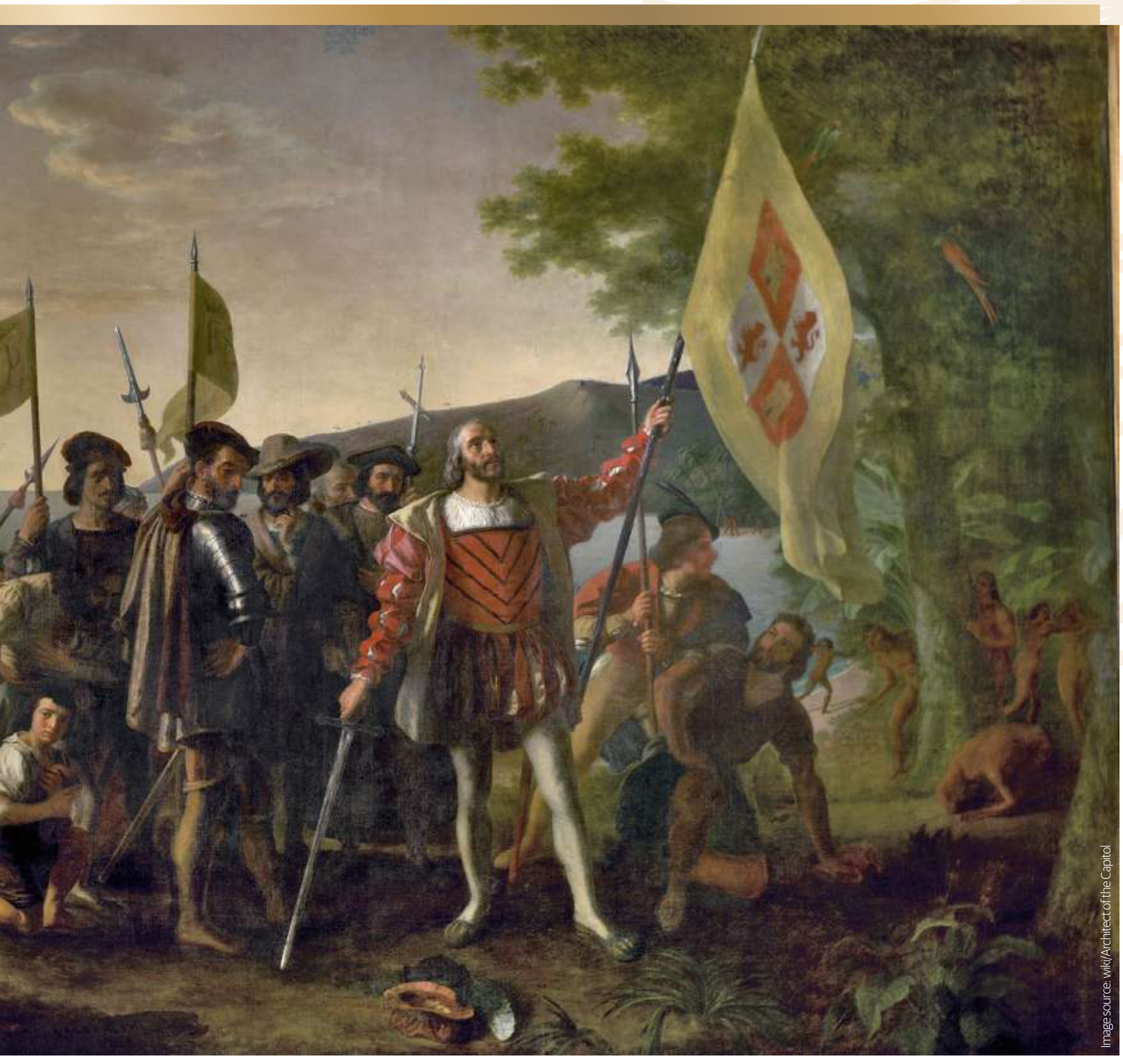


Image source: wiki/Architect of the Capitol

written in the 2nd century and claimed that there was no landmass between the westernmost European shores and the distant coasts of East Asia. Should a vessel set off from the former and sail around the circumference of the globe, it would eventually reach the latter. However, ship technology in the 2nd century had not been up to the job, but centuries later, more advanced shipbuilding technology lay within the grasp of explorers.

Christopher Columbus calculated that he would be able to make the voyage from Europe to the East Asian coast and, with funding from the Spanish royal court, he set sail for China. In fact, what Columbus found was the New World, ripe both for import and export. Less than a decade later, Portuguese explorers arrived in India and swiftly set about establishing trading agreements that would allow the movement of goods from India and Asia into Europe and beyond.

For centuries, the Silk Road lay in tatters, the once wealthy trading cities and towns that had flourished along its routes falling into ruin. For centuries the Silk Road fell silent, a relic of a bygone age, but all of that changed in the 21st century as the East once more looked to renew its links with the West. This modern Silk Road, a railway that passes through China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Russia, was completed in 1990 and has since been extended into a network that allows freight to travel from China all the way to Germany, encountering none of the hazards once common whilst still being far more efficient than a maritime alternative. The network has since widened to ensure that Chinese goods can travel as far as Spain, Italy and the UK.

In late-2013 during a visit to Kazakhstan, Chinese President Xi Jinping unveiled plans for the Belt and Road Initiative as well as a Maritime Silk Road, which will establish transport hubs with a global reach, and embryonic plans for an Ice Silk Road heading into the frozen north. Along the way, cities are beginning to see changes just as they did on the old Silk Road, from investment to immigration and industrialisation. Once said to be a thing of the past, the Silk Road is being reborn.

ABOVE When the Silk Road became hazardous and China enforced bans on shipping, Columbus hoped to reach Asia by sailing west. Instead he found the New World

Critics of the new Silk Road

The modern world's response to an emerging trade powerhouse

The Belt and Road initiative has attracted its share of criticism from across the world. Some have accused China of debt trap diplomacy to fund the project, extending credit to countries in order to fund their part of the initiative, knowing that those countries will never be able to repay the money and giving the Chinese government leverage over them when they default.

Other critics have raised concerns that by strengthening and developing the transport infrastructure between China and its neighbours, China will be able to strategically influence regulatory obstacles that might otherwise have limited its growth. They argue that it will allow China to expand at the expense of the US, as the two nations battle for dominance in the region. There are concerns over the environmental impact of all these projects too, as well as the vast power stations that are being constructed to enable and power the new Silk Road.

Though Russia has championed the new initiatives, the wider international community has been more cautious, urging the Chinese to increase the transparency and accountability of the Belt and Road Initiative. China has been reluctant to do so, reiterating only that the project will bring benefits to the whole world, not just to China itself.

Image source: wiki/U.S. Department of State

Xi Jinping, the president of the People's Republic of China, has championed the Belt and Road initiative that will create a new Silk Road

Christmas Gift Guide

The perfect presents for history fanatics

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Airfix Gift Sets have everything needed to create a stunning scale model. With paints, glue, brushes and moulded plastic parts included, this fantastic new kit is the perfect way to build your very own homage to one of the most well-known ships ever built. At the time of her launch the Titanic was the largest passenger steamship in the world, but is sadly infamous for sinking on her maiden voyage on 14 April 1912.

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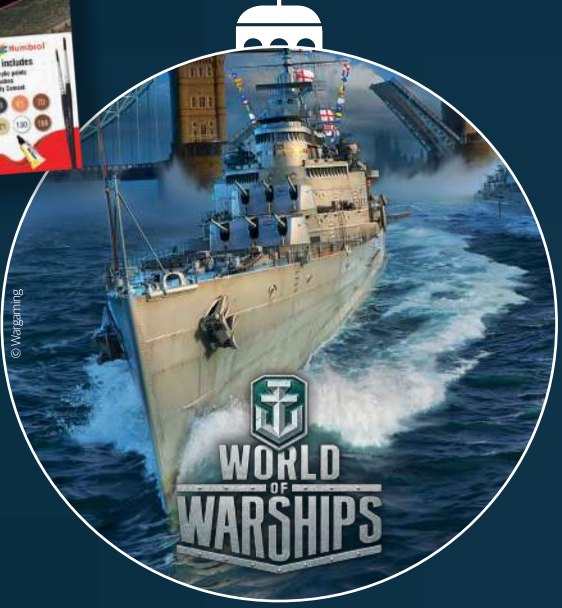

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Keith Burns is an award-winning aviation artist and commercial illustrator. He has illustrated comics for the past decade, and is currently illustrating the Ladybird WWII series written by James Holland.

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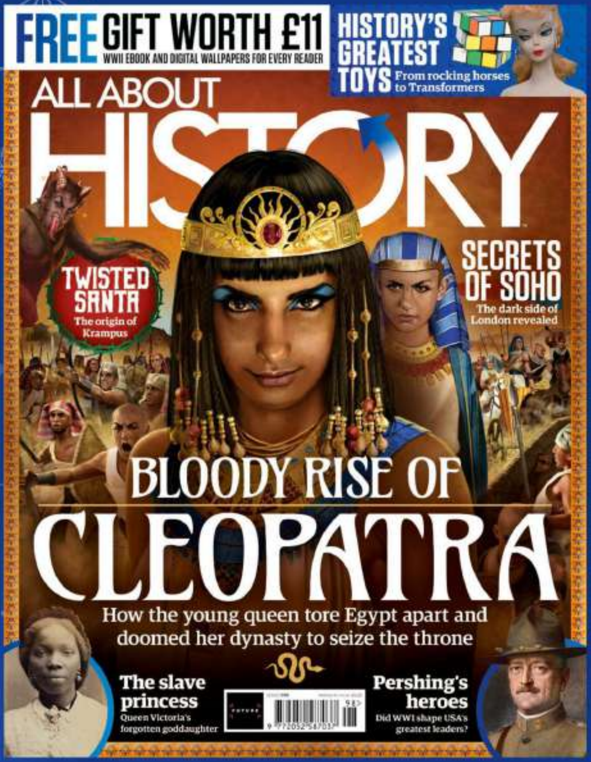
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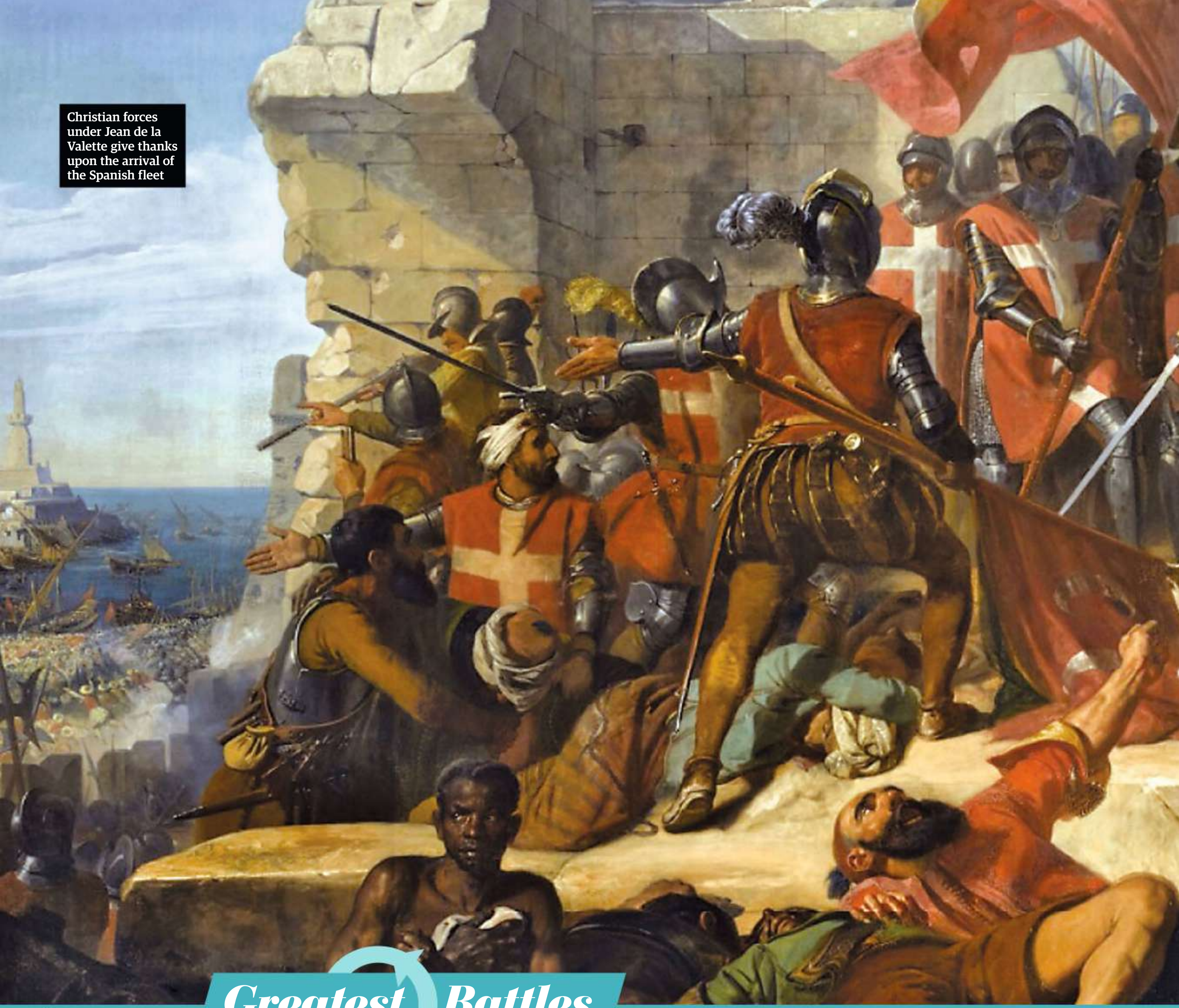


Christian forces under Jean de la Valette give thanks upon the arrival of the Spanish fleet

Greatest Battles

GREAT SIEGE OF MALTA

MALTA, 1565

Written by William E. Welsh

Following an unsuccessful attack against Malta by the Ottoman corsair Dragut in 1551, the Order of Saint John constructed two new forts. The star fort Saint Elmo, on the north side of the Grand Harbour, covered the approaches to both the Grand Harbour and Marsamuscetto inlet, the island's two best anchorages. On the south side of Grand Harbour, the towns of Birgu and Senglia were situated on parallel promontories that jutted into the harbour. To protect Senglia, the Order built Fort Saint Michael across the top of the peninsula. A high wall and ditch surrounded the Birgu peninsula, and Fort Saint Angelo crowned its point. In the island's centre, a small mounted garrison defended the walled city of Mdina.

Suleiman picked Admiral Piali Pasha and General Mustafa Pasha to lead the expedition to Malta.

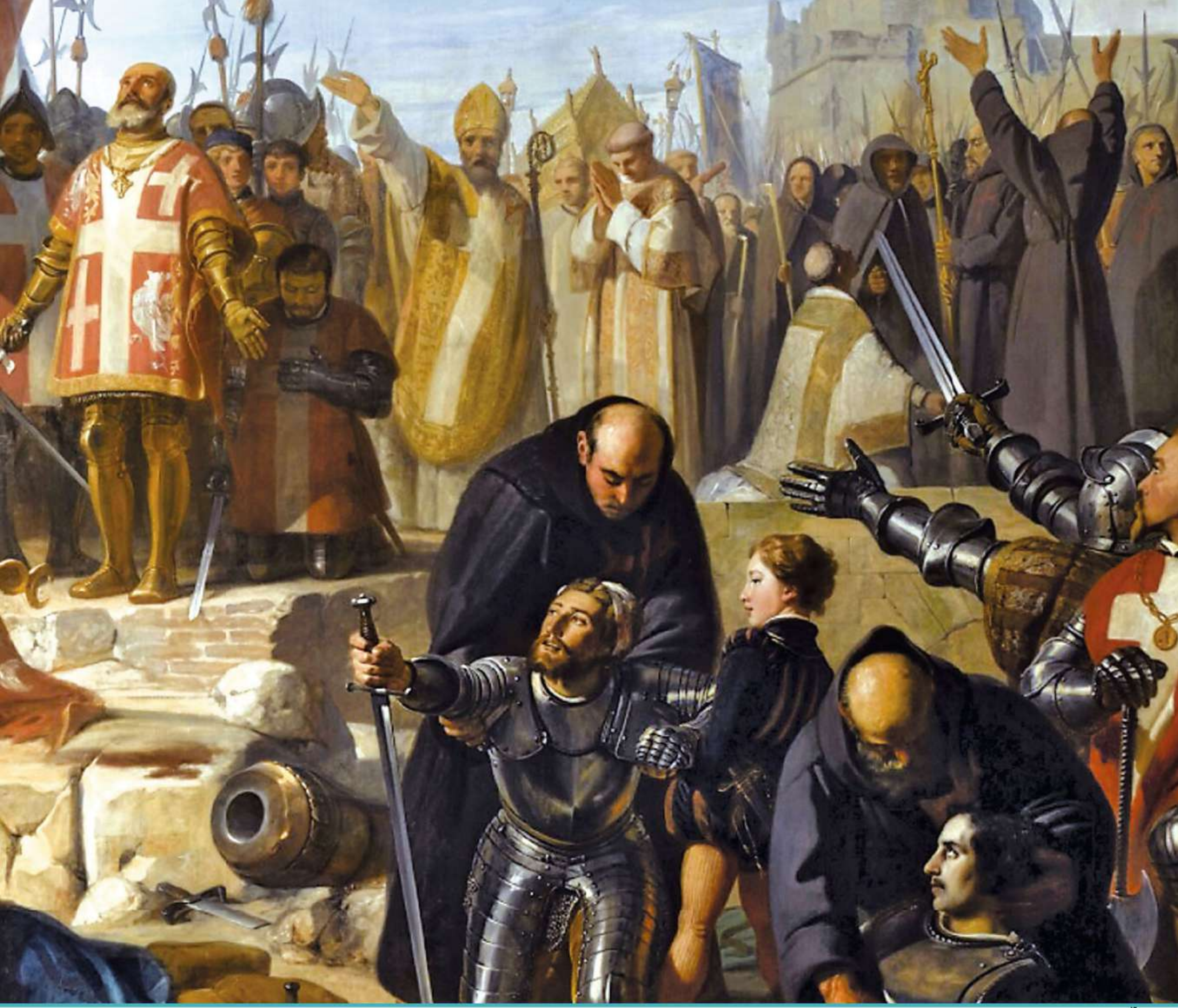


Image source: wiki/PHGCOM

Mustafa was a veteran of long wars in Persia and Hungary, and had fought at Rhodes in 1522. As for Piali, he was younger but had won distinction commanding the Ottoman fleet at Djerba.

The commander of the Christian forces was 71-year-old Grand Master Jean de la Valette. He had fought the Ottomans at Rhodes in 1522. Almost two decades later, while serving as captain of a galley in 1541, the Ottomans captured his vessel and made him and his crew galley slaves. He was freed after one year in a prisoner exchange. He was inured to hardship as a result, and at the time of the Ottoman invasion of Malta he was still robust and fit.

The Ottoman armada arrived in three divisions off Malta on 18 May 1565. The Ottomans sailed the breadth of the island before deciding to land at Marasirocco Harbour on the southern tip of the island. The Ottomans then marched four miles inland, and on 20 May they encamped at Marsa on the west end of Grand Harbour.

La Valette promptly sent a message by boat to Don Garcia de Toledo, viceroy of Sicily, who was 48km away across the Malta Channel in Sicily, stating that the siege had begun and asking when reinforcements might be expected. He received a response that, if all went well, he could expect reinforcements as early as 22 June. At the time, Sicily and Naples belonged to Spanish King Philip II. Toledo, who commanded a squadron of Spanish ships at Sicily, assumed he would be able to get Philip's permission to send a relief force, but Philip was initially reluctant to send a Spanish fleet and land force to relieve Malta, for fear that the far stronger Ottoman fleet might sink his ships.

Piali argued that it was necessary to move immediately to capture Saint Elmo so that he could anchor his fleet in Marsamuscetto inlet, where it would be protected from storms and gale force winds. From the fleet's anchorage in the inlet, it could support the operations against Fort Saint Elmo. The Ottomans prepared to assault Saint Elmo by hauling guns into position on Mount Sciberras on Saint Elmo's landward side.

The 40,000-strong Ottoman army was composed of sipahis, janissaries, Iayalars (religious fanatics) and corsairs. Labourers hauled the heaviest guns – one of which was a massive 160-pounder – onto the ridge, placing them about 455 metres from the outerworks of Fort Saint Elmo.

La Valette's 5,700 Christian troops on Malta consisted of 700 knights from the Order of Saint

John, 1,000 Spanish infantrymen and 4,000 Maltese militiamen. At the outset of the attack on Saint Elmo, the garrison numbered about 80 men, including around 15 knights. Each night La Valette sent small boats from Fort Saint Angelo to reinforce and resupply the garrison. The odds were evened somewhat by the fact that the garrison was supported by 19 cannons and a half-culverin.

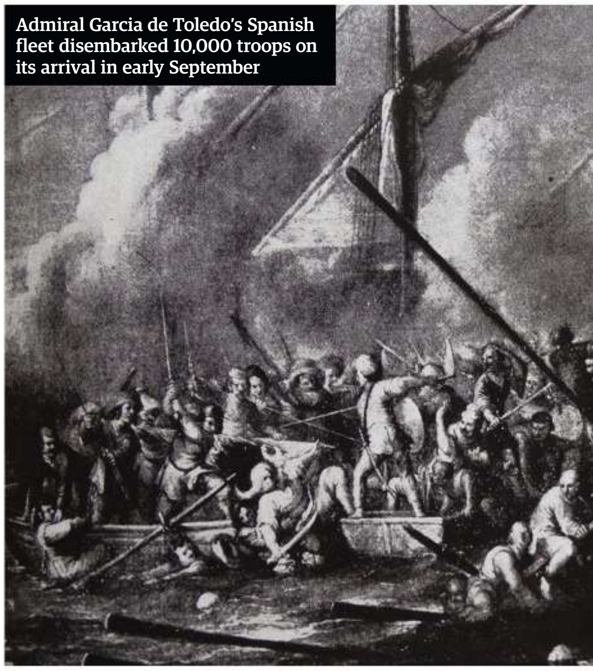
ATTACK ON FORT SAINT ELMO

The Ottoman guns began bombarding Saint Elmo on 25 May. The heavy cannonballs soon took their toll on the walls, producing cracks and crumbling the battlements. It was not long before sections of the wall collapsed. While the cannons blasted away, hundreds of janissaries armed with arquebuses pinned down the Christians on the ramparts.

On 2 June the 80-year-old Dragut, a celebrated Ottoman admiral and corsair, arrived from Tripoli with 24 galleys and 2,500 men. He immediately set to work improving the siege batteries. New batteries were established at Gallows Point on the south shore of Grand Harbour, as well as on the Tigne headland across the inlet from Fort Saint Elmo. This exposed the defenders of Saint Elmo to fire from three directions. Additionally, the guns on Gallows Point were well-placed to try to destroy the boats ferrying men and supplies to Saint Elmo across the harbour.

After Dragut had finished his improvements to the guns arrayed against Saint Elmo, they resumed their bombardment on 3 June. On the night of 6 June, Turkish janissaries in the siege trenches surrounding the west side of Saint Elmo noticed that the Christian guards were asleep. They sent word to Mustafa, who ordered them to place ladders as quietly as possible against the crumbling walls in the pre-dawn darkness. Other janissaries thrust the long barrels of their German-made arquebuses through the squares of the portcullis.

When Mustafa gave the signal to attack, arquebus fire crackled and the janissaries atop the ladders leapt onto the battlements. Men on both sides became involved in a vicious hand-to-hand fight on top of the ramparts. Turkish scimitars and hand axes clanged against the knights' and militia's heavy swords and halberds. To prevent the Ottomans from infiltrating the portcullis, the defenders hurled clay pots containing Greek fire. When the pots exploded, they created balls of flame that engulfed whole groups of attackers. The Christians beat the attackers back and waited for the next onslaught.



Admiral Garcia de Toledo's Spanish fleet disembarked 10,000 troops on its arrival in early September

Mustafa ordered a large-scale assault the following day. White-robed janissaries streamed forth from their forward trenches. As they climbed their ladders, the defenders unleashed their full array of fire weapons, including Greek fire, fire hoops and primitive flame throwers to repulse the attackers. After losing 2,000 of his elite janissaries, Mustafa called off the attack. As for the defenders, they lost ten knights and 70 soldiers.

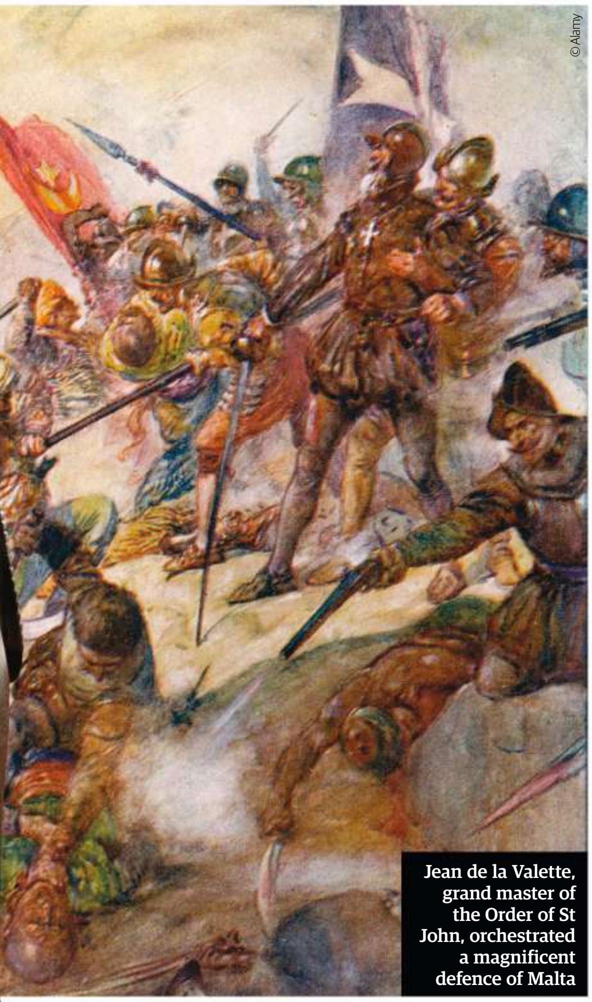
The Ottomans then launched another night attack on 10 June, in which both sides hurled incendiary devices at each other. The Ottoman grenades, which the Christians called 'sachetti', contained a gummy substance that clung to a knight's armour while it burned. The defenders kept large vats of water next to the walls so that when a knight was struck by one of these fire grenades, he could jump in the water to extinguish the flames. The night attack cost Mustafa another 1,500 janissaries and the defenders 60 more men.

DRAGUT'S DEATH

To conserve the dwindling number of his elite janissaries, Mustafa ordered his corps of Iayalars to make an attack against Saint Elmo on 16 June. High on hashish, these religious fanatics charged wild-eyed towards the fort. They wore animal skins and protected their heads with golden helmets. They scrambled over the rubble of the walls with menacing scimitars to grapple with the Christians. Cannon and arquebus fire from the fort cut many down, and 1,000 fell in the ferocious attack.

Two days later Christian cannoneers at Fort Saint Elmo fired on a group of senior Ottoman commanders who were inspecting the siege trenches on the west side of the fort. A cannonball shattered a stone wall behind them, sending a large splinter of rock flying through the air. The splinter tore open the side of Dragut's head, and he died five days later. His aggressive leadership would be sorely missed in the weeks that followed.

That night La Valette sent 30 knights and 300 soldiers across the harbour under cover of darkness



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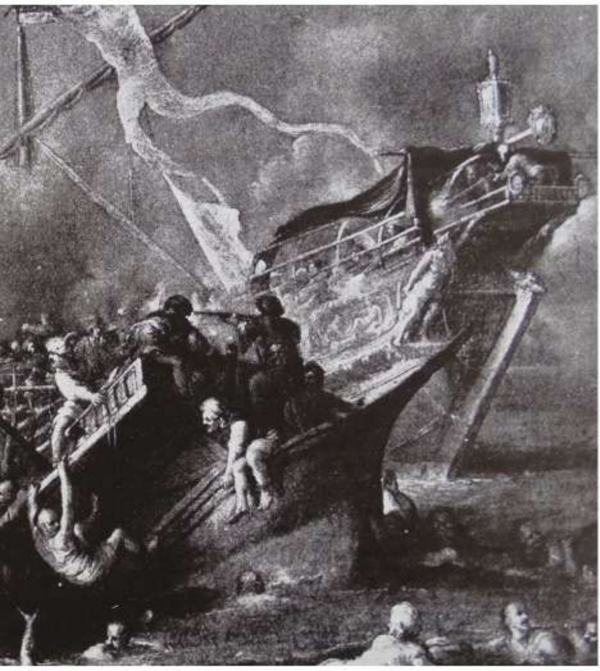
Jean de la Valette, grand master of the Order of St John, orchestrated a magnificent defence of Malta

Image source: wiki/Marie-Lan Nguyen

The Italian-made armour worn by Grand Master Jean de la Valette



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to join the garrison at Saint Elmo. They were the last reinforcements. The following day the Ottomans completed a trench at the waterline along the north shore of Grand Harbour, which enabled them to fire on the boats attempting to make the night run from Saint Angelo to Saint Elmo.

On 23 June Mustafa sent the janissaries against Fort Saint Elmo. By that time the Ottoman trenches completely encircled the fort. The Ottomans breached the walls and wiped out the remaining 60 defenders. The siege had lasted 31 days.

From their position on the south side of the harbour, the remaining Christian troops knew the fort had fallen when Ottoman banners were raised over the ruins. The attack cost the Ottomans 8,000 men, or one-fifth of their entire force. In contrast, La Valette lost 1,500 knights and soldiers in the defence of Saint Elmo. If the Ottomans wanted to conquer Malta, they still had to take two major fortresses on the south side of the harbour, as well as the heavily defended landward walls protecting Birgu.

TIME CRUNCH

The second phase of the siege consisted of Mustafa's attack on the twin promontories that housed Birgu and Senglia. The two commanders came to an agreement: Piali would oversee the attack against Birgu while Mustafa would orchestrate the assault on Senglia. In order to batter the landward walls protecting the peninsulas, labourers began hauling the siege guns from Mount Sciberras to new positions on the south side of Grand Harbour.

In late August dysentery, typhoid and malaria swept through the Ottoman ranks, substantially reducing the number of soldiers available for combat. Piali knew that the strong north winds would soon bring rains and churn up the seas

OTTOMANS

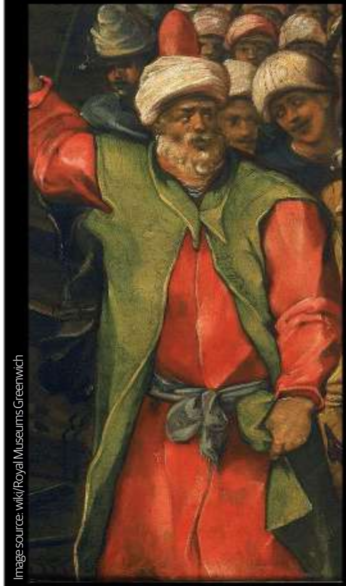


Image source: wiki/Royal Museums Greenwich

PIALI PASHA

Pasha had been a hugely successful admiral prior to the Siege of Malta, where he faced heavy losses. He went back to more victorious ways in the Aegean in the years after and was made vizier, the first admiral in the Ottoman Empire to reach such a rank.

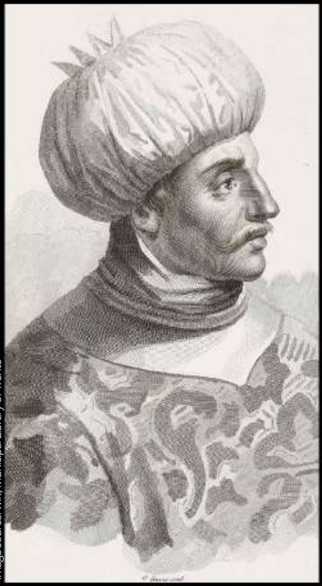


Image source: wiki/Municipal Library of Trento

OCCHIALI

Originally a farmer in Italy, Occhiali became an Ottoman privateer and eventually admiral in their fleet. He joined the siege with the Egyptian fleet, but when Dragut was killed, Piali appointed him as the successor to the legendary commander.

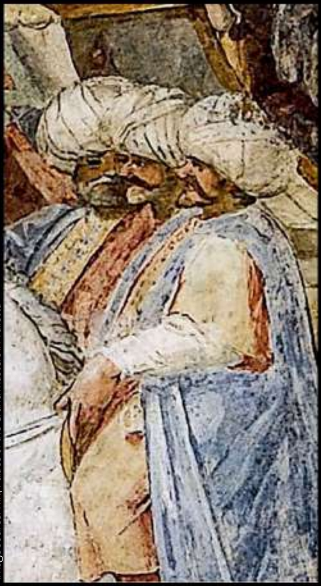
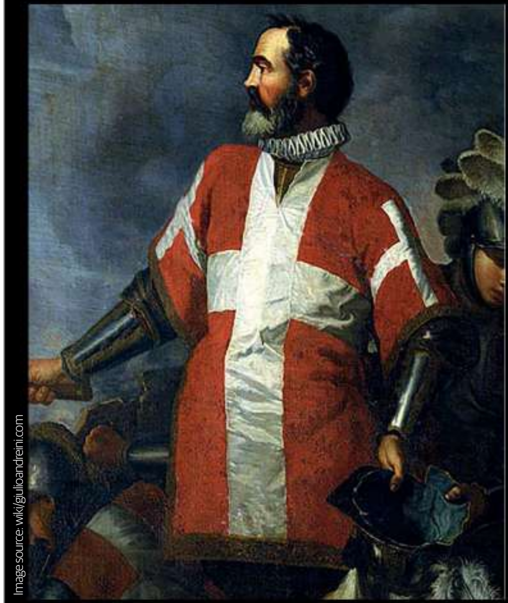


Image source: wiki/Palace of the Grand Masters in Valletta

DRAGUT

The ageing veteran Dragut was something of a legend in the Ottoman Empire. Known as 'The Drawn Sword of Islam', he had successfully lead his navy to dominate North Africa and made the Ottoman fleet feared by all in the Mediterranean.

THE KNIGHTS



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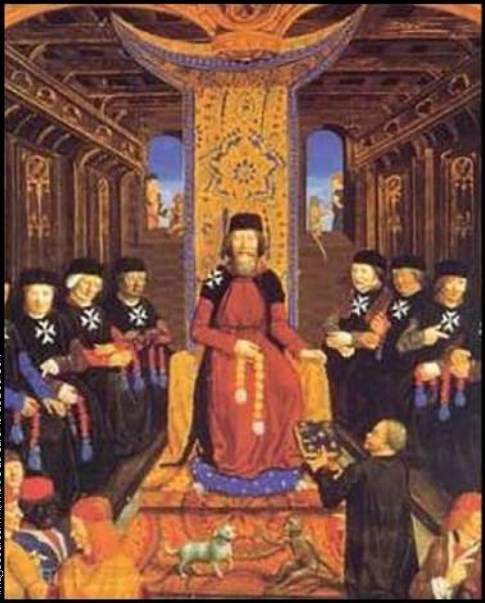
JEAN PARISOT DE LA VALETTE

The french nobleman became the Grand Master of the Order of Malta from 1557 and in leading the resistance of Malta against the Ottoman siege, became a hero of the Hospitallers. Valletta, the capital of Malta, is named in his honour, although he died before it was completed in 1568.



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KNIGHTS HOSPITALLER

The Order of Knights of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem were a Catholic military order formed around 1099. They were the primary contingent of knights on the island when the Ottomans attacked and lost at least half their number before support from Philip II of Spain arrived.

around Malta. Without a shipyard to repair and maintain his ships, Piali believed he would be risking the sultan's fleet by wintering in Malta. For these reasons, he informed Mustafa that he planned to depart no later than mid-September for Istanbul with or without the land army on board his ships.

The Ottomans successfully detonated a mine under the land walls of Birgu on 19 August. When part of the wall crashed to the ground, the Ottomans fought their way into the town. La Valette, whose headquarters were in the town's square, led a group of Christian troops forward in a counterattack. The Ottomans resumed their attack at dusk but at dawn they withdrew, having failed to capture the town.

A SPANISH ARMY ARRIVES

King Philip II was reluctant to allow the relief force from Sicily to sail to Malta but Toledo finally succeeded in persuading the king. He received permission from Philip II on 20 August to transport the 10,000-man relief force to Malta. By that time, the Ottomans had begun withdrawing their army in stages. The pace of the withdrawal quickened when word came that a large relief force had arrived.

After dropping off the 10,000 Spanish troops at Mellieha Bay on 6 September, Toledo ordered the Spanish warships to depart immediately to avoid a naval engagement.

On 10 September the Ottoman army was ready to depart for Istanbul, but Mustafa had second thoughts. He had recently received a letter from Suleiman telling him he must return to Istanbul with news of a victory. For that reason, Mustafa wanted to try to crush the Spanish relief army before he departed.

As the Ottomans approached Naxxar, there was a race to see which side could seize the high ground. The Spanish won the race, and they immediately began pushing back the Ottomans. Arquebusiers on both sides poured fire into their foe's ranks. When the Ottomans wavered, the Spanish pikemen crashed into their lines. A rout ensued, with the Ottomans having no choice but to conduct a fighting retreat north to Saint Paul's Bay.

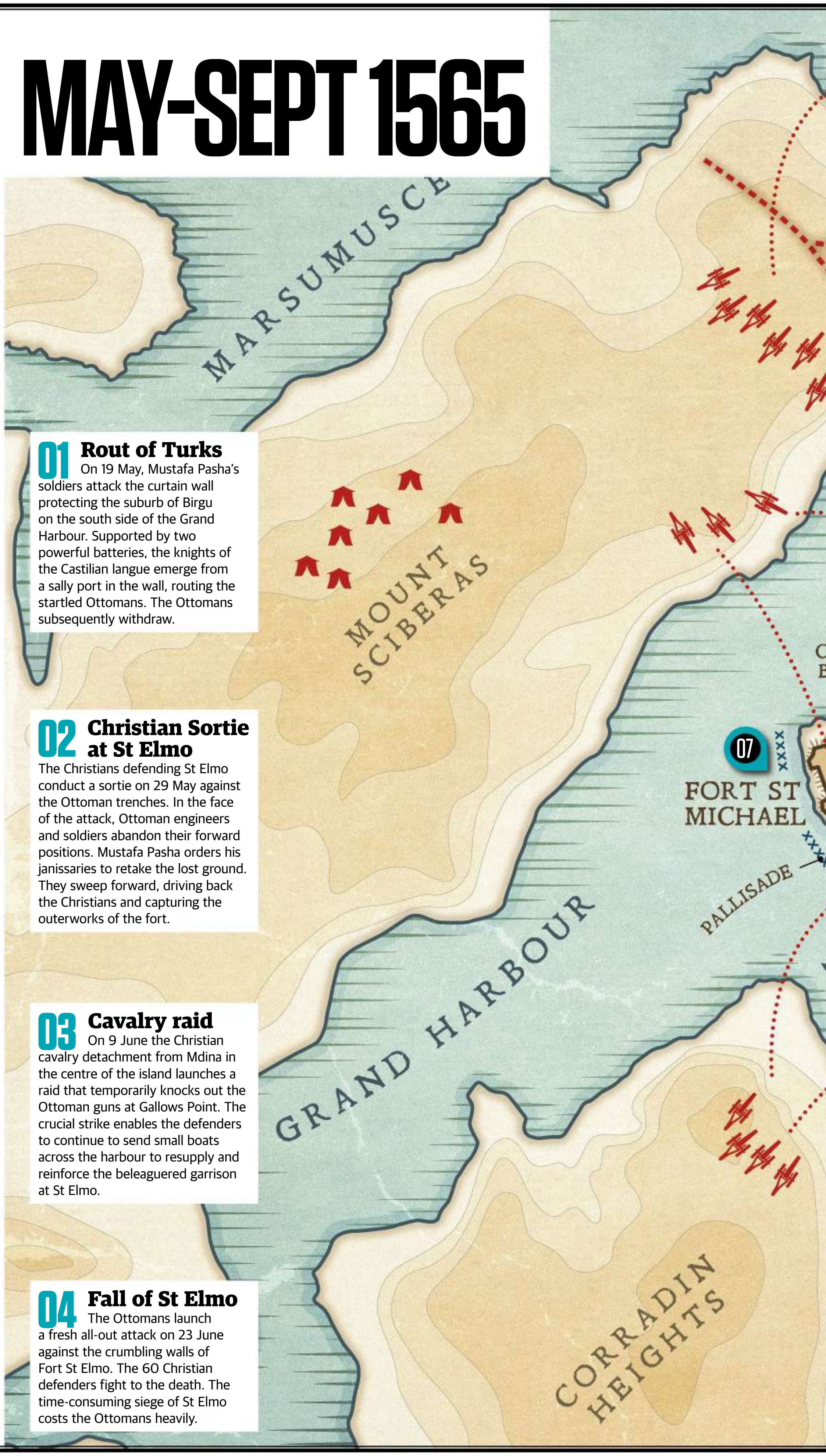
OTTOMAN MISTAKES

The Ottoman army lost 24,000 of its 40,000 men in the failed siege. A significant number of those succumbed to disease and the climate. Of the 5,700 Christian troops on Malta, only 600 survived.

The siege is remembered as one of the epic Christian-Muslim clashes of the 16th century. The Ottoman loss can be chalked up to divisive leadership, flawed strategy and lack of safe drinking water. The soldiers were blameless, having fought heroically. What's more, the defeat derailed Ottoman plans to control the North African coast.

As for the Knights of Saint John, they had shown they were formidable on both land and sea. The Order's victory was due to La Valette's inspiring leadership, the high morale of the troops and the arrival of the Spanish army. Without any one of those factors, Malta might have fallen.

MAY-SEPT 1565

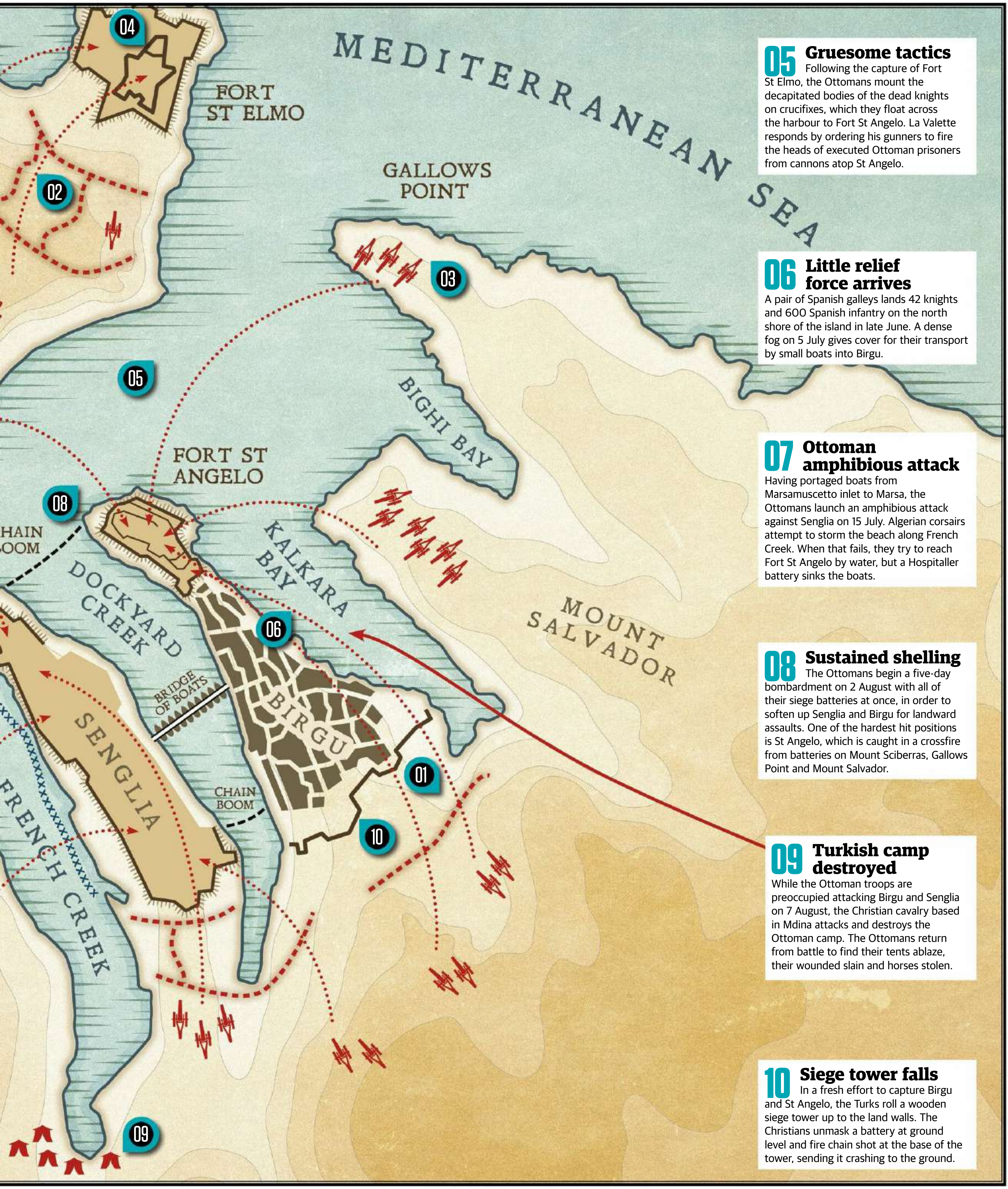


01 Rout of Turks
On 19 May, Mustafa Pasha's soldiers attack the curtain wall protecting the suburb of Birgu on the south side of the Grand Harbour. Supported by two powerful batteries, the knights of the Castilian langue emerge from a sally port in the wall, routing the startled Ottomans. The Ottomans subsequently withdraw.

02 Christian Sortie at St Elmo
The Christians defending St Elmo conduct a sortie on 29 May against the Ottoman trenches. In the face of the attack, Ottoman engineers and soldiers abandon their forward positions. Mustafa Pasha orders his janissaries to retake the lost ground. They sweep forward, driving back the Christians and capturing the outerworks of the fort.

03 Cavalry raid
On 9 June the Christian cavalry detachment from Mdina in the centre of the island launches a raid that temporarily knocks out the Ottoman guns at Gallows Point. The crucial strike enables the defenders to continue to send small boats across the harbour to resupply and reinforce the beleaguered garrison at St Elmo.

04 Fall of St Elmo
The Ottomans launch a fresh all-out attack on 23 June against the crumbling walls of Fort St Elmo. The 60 Christian defenders fight to the death. The time-consuming siege of St Elmo costs the Ottomans heavily.


04
FORT ST ELMO
02
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
GALLOWS POINT
03
05
BIGHI BAY
FORT ST ANGELO
08
HAIN OOM
DOCKYARD CREEK
KALKARA BAY
06
MOUNT SALVADOR
BIRGU
BRIDGE OF BOATS
SENGLIA
01
CHAIN BOOM
10
FRENCH CREEK
09

05 Gruesome tactics

Following the capture of Fort St Elmo, the Ottomans mount the decapitated bodies of the dead knights on crucifixes, which they float across the harbour to Fort St Angelo. La Valette responds by ordering his gunners to fire the heads of executed Ottoman prisoners from cannons atop St Angelo.

06 Little relief force arrives

A pair of Spanish galleys lands 42 knights and 600 Spanish infantry on the north shore of the island in late June. A dense fog on 5 July gives cover for their transport by small boats into Birgu.

07 Ottoman amphibious attack

Having portaged boats from Marsamuscetto inlet to Marsa, the Ottomans launch an amphibious attack against Senglia on 15 July. Algerian corsairs attempt to storm the beach along French Creek. When that fails, they try to reach Fort St Angelo by water, but a Hospitaller battery sinks the boats.

08 Sustained shelling

The Ottomans begin a five-day bombardment on 2 August with all of their siege batteries at once, in order to soften up Senglia and Birgu for landward assaults. One of the hardest hit positions is St Angelo, which is caught in a crossfire from batteries on Mount Sciberras, Gallows Point and Mount Salvador.

09 Turkish camp destroyed

While the Ottoman troops are preoccupied attacking Birgu and Senglia on 7 August, the Christian cavalry based in Mdina attacks and destroys the Ottoman camp. The Ottomans return from battle to find their tents ablaze, their wounded slain and horses stolen.

10 Siege tower falls

In a fresh effort to capture Birgu and St Angelo, the Turks roll a wooden siege tower up to the land walls. The Christians unmask a battery at ground level and fire chain shot at the base of the tower, sending it crashing to the ground.

Map by: Battlefield Design

What If…

THE CIA HAD NEVER BEEN CREATED?

What has been the impact of the world's most powerful intelligence agency? And what if it had never been formed?

Written by Callum McKelvie

INTERVIEW WITH

© John Prados

JOHN PRADOS

John Prados is an author, historian and analyst of national security. He specialises in the Vietnam War, World War II and the history of the Central Intelligence Agency. His most recent work is *The Ghosts Of Langley: Into The Heart Of The CIA*.

How did the CIA come to be?

In 1947 the United States passed a sweeping law called the National Security Act of 1947. This not only created the CIA but also the National Security Council and the Secretary of Defense to manage all the armed services, as well as an independent Air Force and a Marine Corps as a specified component of the Navy. In the case of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Americans had completed an extensive congressional probe into the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor and sought to avoid any repeat of that. During WWII the US had benefited from the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), a wartime spy agency, and the CIA was intended as a successor to that.

Who are some of the key figures in its formation?

Years later, in the early 1960s, President Harry S Truman wrote an op-ed article in which he denounced the CIA, but at the time of its creation he was clearly a major contributor. Truman provided a blueprint for what became the CIA with his establishment of a supervisory framework he called the National Intelligence Authority. More than that, Truman and a few of his close friends donned capes and caps and held up wooden swords to play at cloak and dagger. There were a number of former OSS operatives who agitated for the creation of a peacetime intelligence agency, including prominent figures like William 'Wild Bill' Donovan, who'd headed the OSS, and Allen W Dulles, a former OSS station chief. Both of them used their law firms to recruit like-minded OSS veterans to support their campaign. General Hoyt Vandenberg, a prominent World War II air commander, was notable as an empire builder at the Central Intelligence Group, the CIA's immediate predecessor, and his grabbing of missions and efforts to expand the organisation provided a foundation for the CIA. Dulles would come back, first as an efficiency expert to advise Truman, then as a CIA official, and finally as superspy and CIA director throughout the 1950s. It was Dulles who built the headquarters building and complex that still houses the CIA today, a story we tell in *The Ghosts Of Langley*.

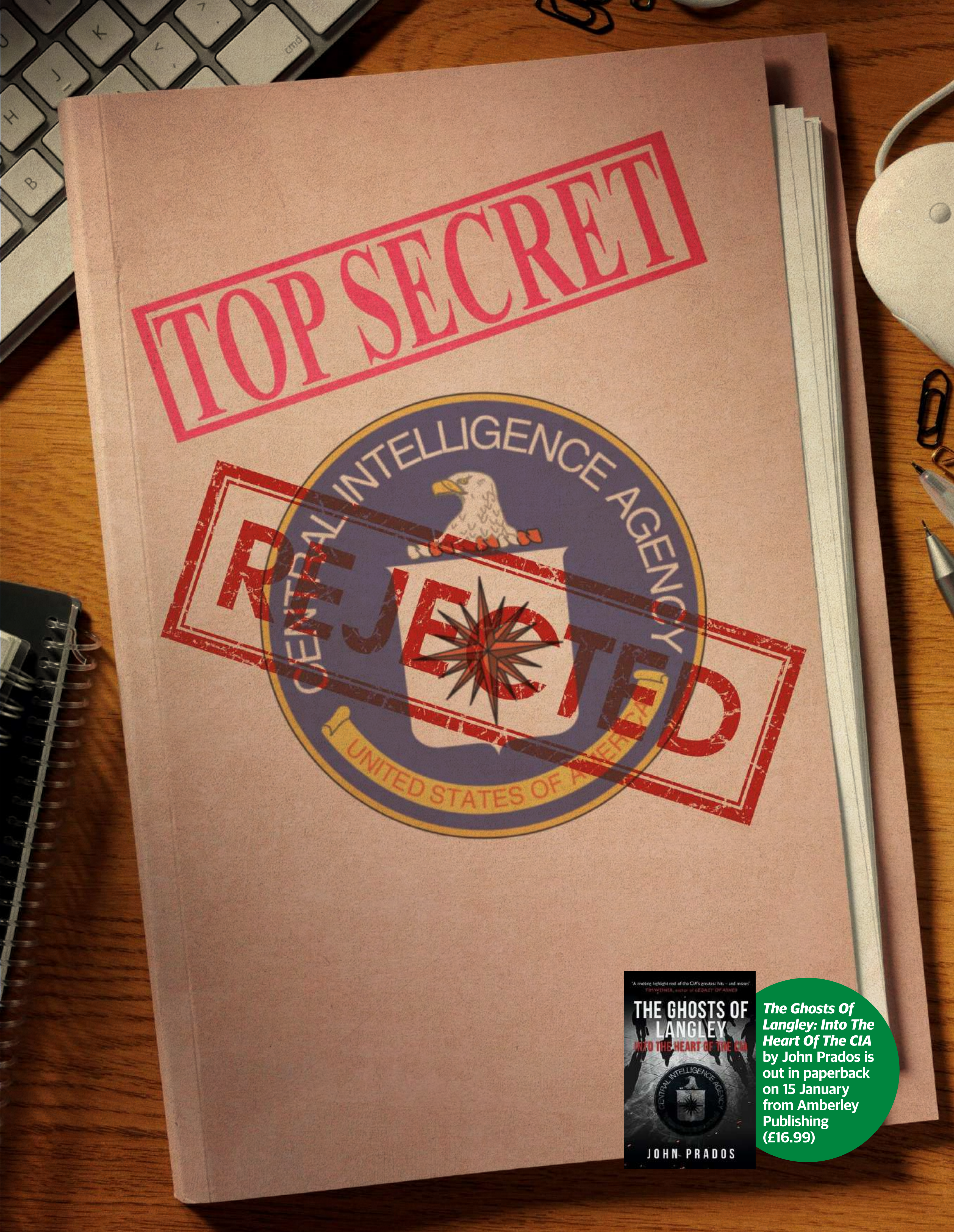
Tell us about a particularly daring or interesting CIA mission that you researched when writing the book.

Over many years the CIA conducted a variety of missions in conjunction with the Secret Intelligence Service, or MI6. Sometimes these were direct partnerships, as with the CIA-SIS operations into Albania or Iran. Other times it was more a matter of tacit cooperation. One of these took place in the Far East in the late 1950s, during President Eisenhower's administration. Here the CIA sought to intervene in a rebellion of Indonesian

Image source: wiki/ Rumlin

RIGHT The CIA orchestrated the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961, which ended in humiliation

Main image sources: © Getty Images, wiki/ United States Federal government


TOP SECRET
REJECTED
THE GHOSTS OF LANGLEY
INTO THE HEART OF THE CIA
JOHN PRADOS

The Ghosts Of Langley: Into The Heart Of The CIA **by John Prados is out in paperback on 15 January from Amberley Publishing (£16.99)**

THE PAST

1942-45

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

Headed by William 'Wild Bill' Donovan, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) was the US intelligence service during WWII. Its purpose was to obtain information about enemy operations and carry out sabotage. Unlike numerous other organisations during WWII, the OSS was run by civilians and was not directly tied to the military. The service was attached to the White House and Donovan often made information available directly to the president. The OSS was not permitted to conduct missions in the Pacific Theatre as General Douglas MacArthur controlled the operations there. The OSS was terminated on 20 September 1945 and most of its functions were eventually transferred to the CIA.

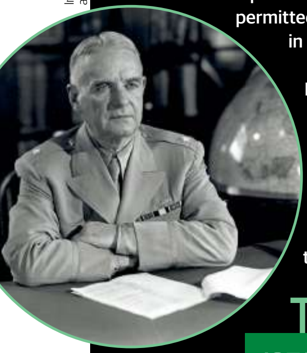


Image source: wiki/ National Archives and Records Administration

1951-61

ALLEN DULLES

During World War II, Dulles served as chief of the OSS section in Bern, Switzerland, after being recruited by Donovan. Following the war Dulles was made chair of the committee that surveyed the American intelligence system and led to the establishment of the CIA in 1951. For the organisation's first two years he served as deputy director, before being made director in 1953. Under Dulles' leadership the CIA scored several major coups, including assisting the overthrow of Mohammad Mosaddegh in Iran in 1953, Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala in 1954, and obtaining a copy of Nikita Khrushchev's 1956 speech denouncing Stalin. Dulles' fall from grace would come after he was reappointed by Kennedy and implicated in the Bay of Pigs scandal.

1961

LANGLEY

As CIA director, Dulles took up the challenge of finding a permanent home for the agency. The site known as Langley in Virginia was selected due to its privacy, security and closeness for the majority of CIA employees at the time. The site was also perfect for future expansion.

© Alamy

ABOVE The CIA's headquarters in Langley, Virginia

military leaders against President Sukarno. CIA officials tried to convince MI6 representatives in Singapore to provide offices and an alternate base for US efforts, and US warships did shelter at Singapore during the operation. The Indonesian colonels rebelling against Sukarno could hardly fight, however, and the CIA operation fell apart after an American pilot was captured on a bombing mission to one of Indonesia's islands. Eisenhower's board of consultants who monitored his intelligence operations were highly critical of the Indonesia fiasco.

How impactful has the CIA been to both 20th and 21st century history?

The CIA probably had a wider range of activities, in more places around the world, than any other American government agency in the latter half of the 20th century. In the current century CIA activities played a critical role in darkening the image of the United States, while at the same time having an indeterminate impact on the asserted enemy, Al Qaeda. In addition, the way the Al Qaeda mission has crept into the wider role of attacking not only 'terrorism' writ large but any enemy of the United States suggests that old methods of exercising control over intelligence operations no longer function as intended.

Image source: wiki/ US Government

BELOW Allen Dulles played a pivotal role in the development of the CIA

How has the role of the CIA changed from its Cold War/post-war origins?

At its inception in 1947 the CIA was a pure analytical instrument, with some espionage capacity. Covert operations, psychological warfare, disinformation and misinformation activities were located outside the agency, in the so-called Office of Policy Coordination (OPC). This came to be viewed as counterproductive, and in 1952 the OPC was absorbed into the CIA, giving it the broad range of activities in which it still engages. Also at that time, the CIA was subject to very few outside controls. President Eisenhower first created a White House watchdog unit, and the intelligence oversight committees of today originated in the 1970s after congressional investigations and a presidential commission inquiry into illegal activities by the CIA. The record on oversight is irregular – it has waxed and waned depending on the party in power, political purposes and the extent of abuses that are evident. For example, with accountability yet to be enforced for the CIA's 'black prisons' programme, Michael Morell, a former official and one of its defenders, has been spoken of as a possible CIA chief in the new Joe Biden administration. *The Ghosts Of Langley*, by the way, contains a detailed refutation of Morell's arguments in support of the aggressive interrogation (torture) programme.

> "The absence of a CIA might have reduced US propensity for foreign interventions"

Were there any points when the CIA could have been disbanded or reformed beyond recognition?
In 1952-54, when a covert operation in Poland (which MI6 had handed off to the CIA) was exposed as a Soviet entrapment scheme, there was an internal push for reform that led to the so-called 'Doolittle Report', which stopped short of demanding major changes. After the CIA repeated a number of its mistakes from the Indonesian operation at the Bay of Pigs in Cuba in 1961, there were quite serious suggestions to eliminate its covert action apparatus, create separate organisations, or confine the agency to intelligence analysis. These suggestions were defeated in all likelihood because President John F Kennedy wanted to continue CIA covert operations, not curtail them. Thus you had a secret war against Fidel Castro, and an ambitious programme of CIA covert action in Southeast Asia. At the end of the Cold War, in America there was an effort to have a 'peace dividend', which could have included CIA reforms. Instead, the agency shopped for new roles and missions. The CIA's involvement in the former-Yugoslavia's civil wars, and in monitoring Middle East peace initiatives, were partly intended to demonstrate the organisation had continuing value.

If the CIA had never been formed what could some of the immediate effects have been?
Advocates of CIA covert operations argue that the agency's ability to engage in these provides a capability in between doing nothing and going to war. By this logic the absence of the CIA would have increased the danger of big wars. However, big wars were never attractive to national leaders, – and the CIA's analytical role helped to defuse that danger by explaining foreign adversaries' motives. The other side of this question is that CIA built its covert-action capabilities to fight the adversary superpower, but ended up using those means primarily for interventions in the Third World. The absence of a CIA might have reduced US propensity to engage in foreign interventions.

What could some of the later and more global effects have been?
CIA operations in Europe in the 1950s sharpened the Cold War, and decades later the revelation of stay-behind 'Gladio'-type networks became a foreign policy embarrassment. Had there not been a CIA to intervene in the Congo, the decolonisation of Africa would've been smoother. Ditto the independence of Mozambique and Angola in the 1970s and 1980s. The secret war against Cuba spilled over into South and Central America and endured into the '80s, with tragic consequences. The impact of CIA activities in the Vietnam War was huge and deserves its own detailed study.

BELOW The Vietnam War was one of America's defining conflicts of the 20th century. Naturally, the CIA carried out numerous operations

Image source: wiki/ Barry Broman Collection (COLL/4613) at the Archives Branch, Marine Corps History Division

THE POSSIBILITY

1961

BAY OF PIGS INVASION

On 17 April 1961, 1,500 Cuban exiles participated in a disastrous attempt to overthrow Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro (inset), who had come to power in 1959. During the Eisenhower administration, the CIA had developed a plan to train these exiles for an invasion. Castro's takeover of Cuba had hit American foreign policy hard and the implications of his willingness to work with the Soviet Union were still unknown. Training camps were set up in Guatemala, and despite plans to keep them secret Castro became aware as early as October 1960. What was more damaging was that the CIA's role in the invasion was also widely known. The resultant invasion was a disaster, with most of the exiles killed or captured. This would later cause Castro to become even more anti-American in his foreign policy choices. Had the CIA not been in operation, it is unsure what would have occurred here.

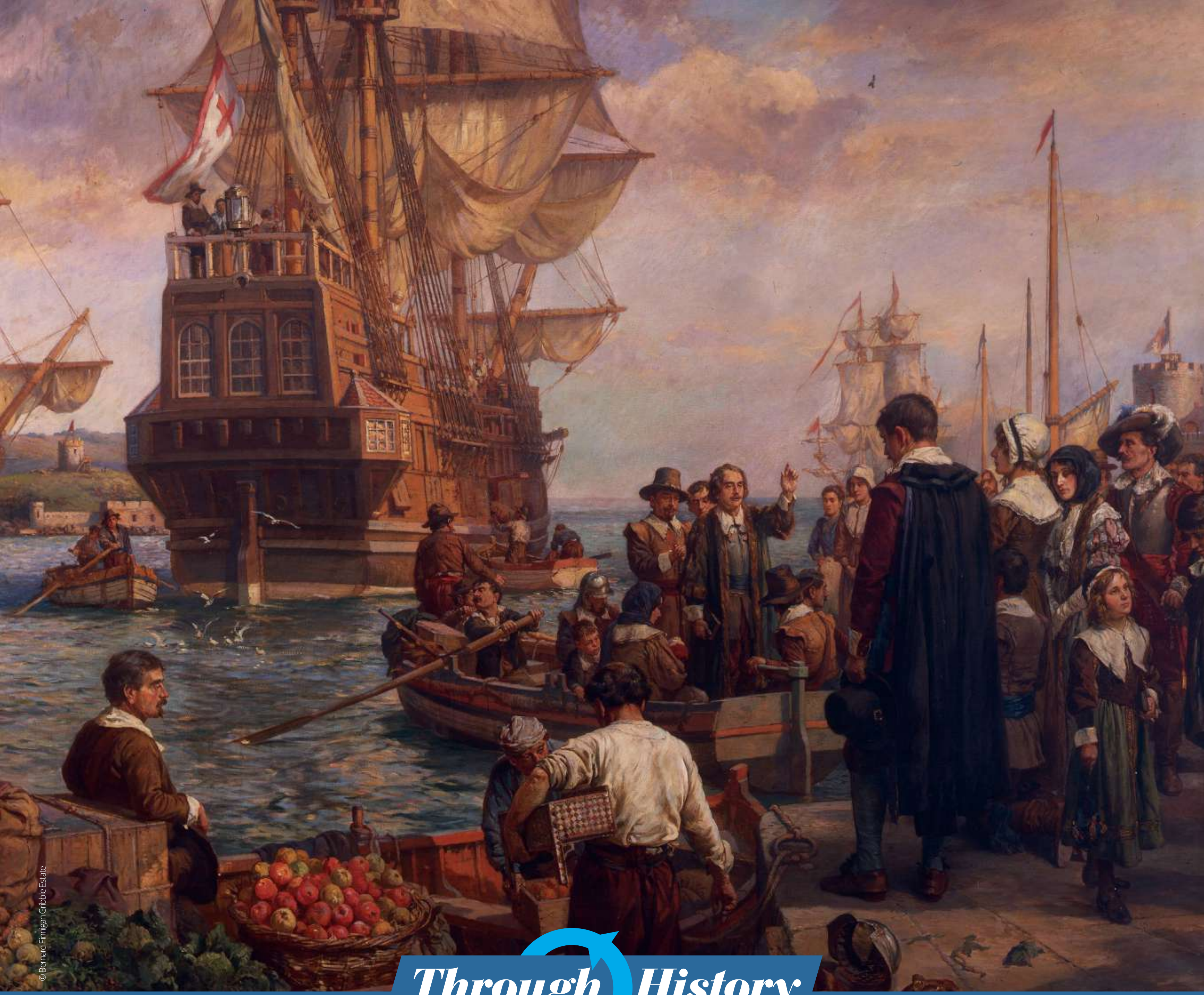
Image source: wiki/ Library of Congress

1960-68

INTERVENTION IN THE CONGO

Between 1960 and 1968, the CIA carried out a number of operations in the Congo to prevent the newly independent regime falling to communism. After gaining independence on 30 June 1960, Patrice Lumumba (inset) was elected as prime minister. Within days, Congo's troops mutinied against their all-white officer corps and Lumumba made clear his desire for full control of his country's resources to improve conditions for his people. Belgium sent troops to the country and as the situation increased in intensity, Lumumba asked the Soviet Union for assistance, and it provided technical advisors. This concerned the US as it had acquired stakes in numerous Congolese materials, including obtaining the uranium for its first two atomic bombs from a Congolese mine. Lumumba was captured by rival Joseph Kasavubu, the country's president. He was placed under house arrest before being shot by firing squad. Although the CIA had assassination plans in place, these were not carried out. However, it did support Lumumba's rivals. Had the CIA not existed, the history of this troubled country would almost certainly have been very different.

Image source: wiki/ Democratic Republic of Congo



© Bernard Finnigan Gribble Estate

Through History

ARTEFACTS OF THE MAYFLOWER

400 years on, what do the items associated with this famous ship tell us about its journey and passengers?

Captions by Jo Loosemore (Curator of Mayflower 400: Legend & Legacy)

On 16 September 1620, the Mayflower set sail from Plymouth carrying 102 people seeking either religious freedom or a new start in an unknown land. Now, 400 years later, the story of the ship, its passengers and their effect on the world is being retold through a variety of exhibitions, the flagship of which is at The Box museum in Plymouth.

One of the main reasons behind the voyage was the rise of Puritanism, with its followers believing the Church of England's ideology was too weak. In 1607, the most prominent of this group had been forced to flee to Holland due to conflict with the crown. After ten years in exile the decision was made to voyage to the New World and create a colony of their own.

Mayflower 400: Legend & Legacy has been created with the help of some 100 museums, archives and libraries from the US, UK and the Netherlands in partnership with the Wampanoag Advisory Committee to Mayflower 400 in Massachusetts. It also includes The Box's first artistic commission, a new Wampanoag piece created by artist Nosapocket/Romana Peters.

SECOND PIERCE PATENT

This is the document that gave the passengers of the Mayflower English permission to settle their Plymouth colony. It's the oldest existing state document in Massachusetts. The Box in Plymouth had planned to bring it to the UK for what is thought to be the first time in 400 years, but the coronavirus had other ideas.

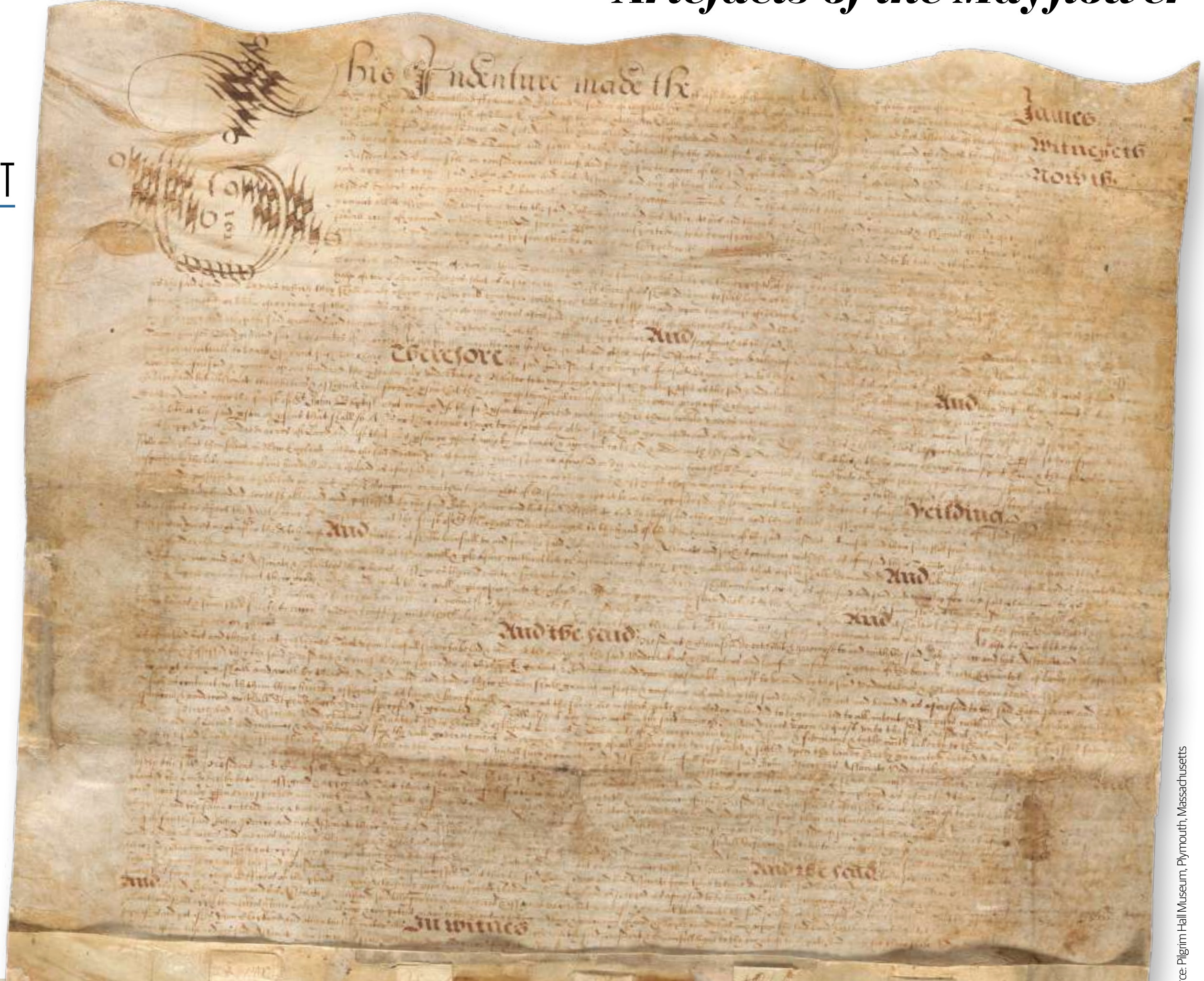
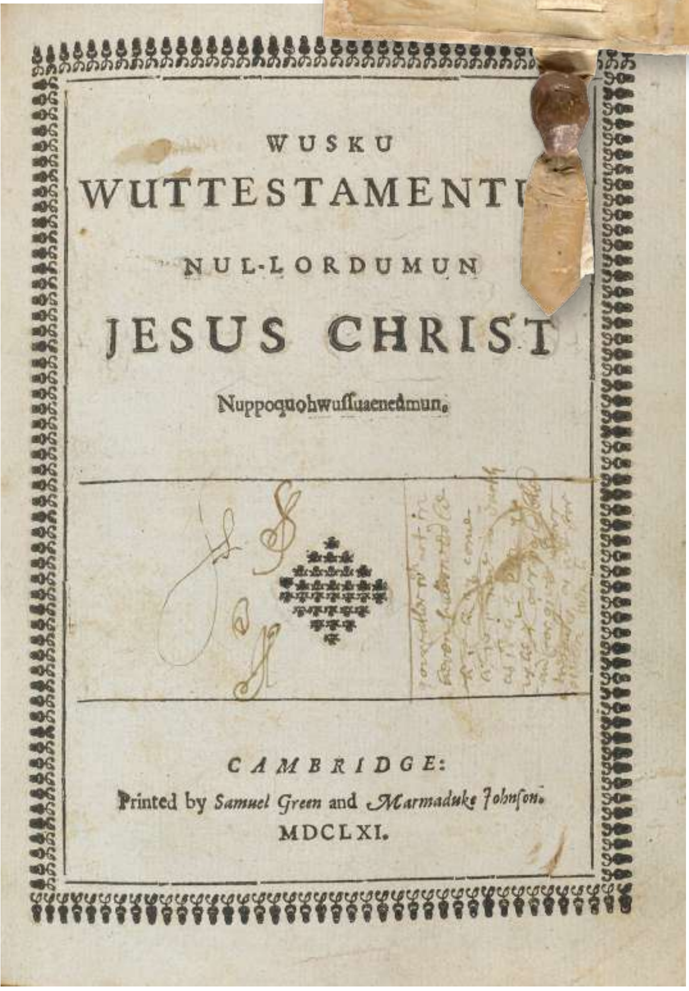


Image source: Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, Massachusetts

JOHN ELIOT BIBLE

This *Bible* was the first *Bible* to be printed in America. It was also printed in a Native American language – Algonquian. John Eliot was a missionary who used this *Bible* to convert the local population to Christianity. Colonisation prevented them from speaking their language for centuries, so now this 17th century text is being used by the Wampanoag people to reclaim their ancestral vocabulary and dialect.



WUSKU
WUTTESTAMENTU
NUL-LORDUMUN
JESUS CHRIST
Nuppoquohwussuaeneumun.

CAMBRIDGE:
Printed by Samuel Green and Marmaduke Johnson.
MDCLXI.

Image source: Exeter Cathedral Library

LAST KNOWN DOCUMENT OF THE MAYFLOWER

This is the last known document of the Mayflower. Dated 1624, it describes the ship as being "in ruins", but worth £128 8s 4d. The value was significant to the widow of the ship's master, Christopher Jones, who had died in 1622. It's not known what happened to the ship.

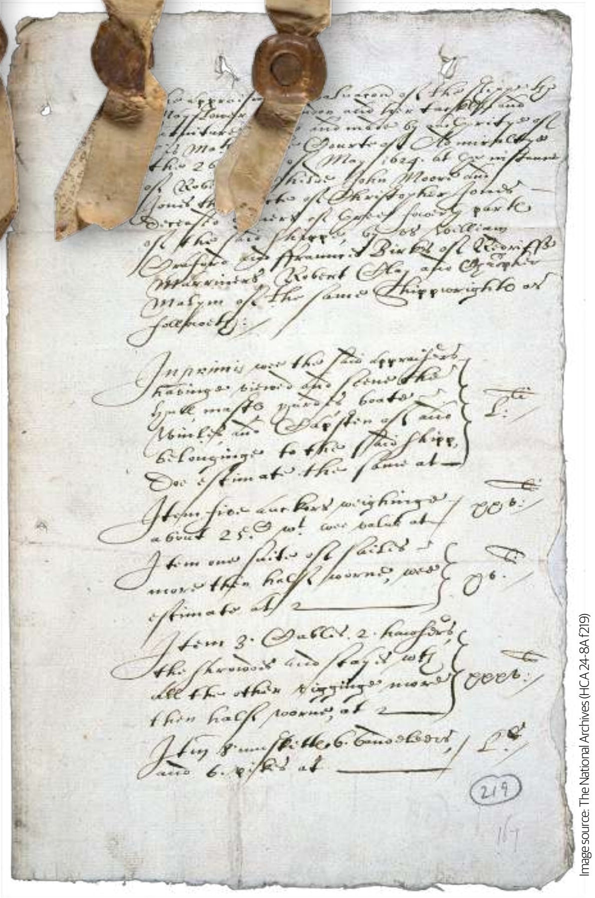


Image source: The National Archives (HCA 24-8A f219)

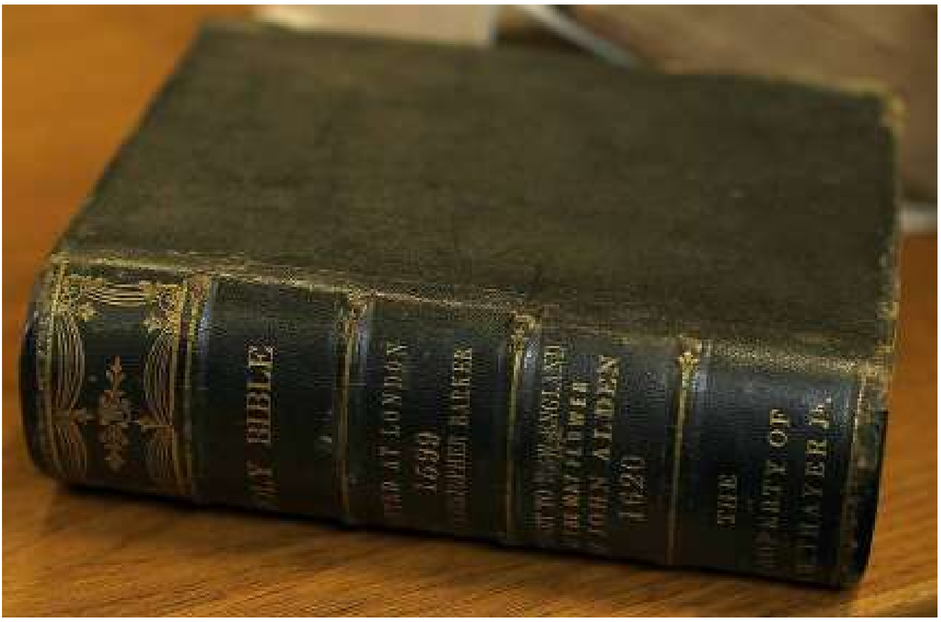


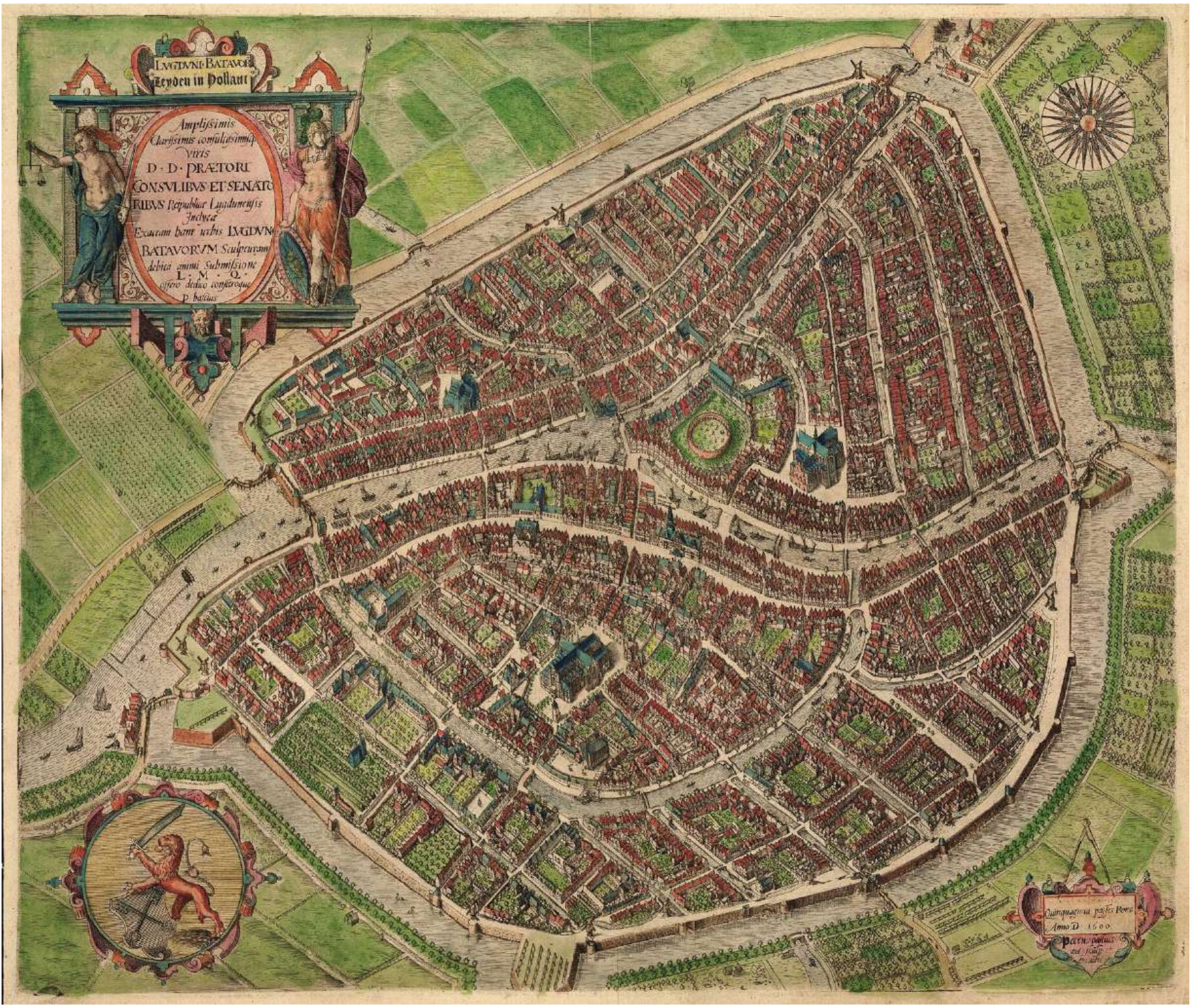
Image source: Rauner Special Collections Library, Dartmouth College

ALDEN BIBLE

◀ This *Geneva Bible* belonged to Mayflower passenger John Alden. He was the cooper, who joined the ship in Southampton. Although he was only hired for a year Alden stayed in the Plymouth colony and married fellow passenger Priscilla Mullins.

LEIDEN MAP

▼ The idea for the Mayflower's Atlantic journey in 1620 originated in Leiden in the Netherlands. The city was home to many refugees, including a community of English exiles. They were Separatists who had fled England in 1607/8. By 1620 they were looking for an escape from Holland too.


LVGDVNI BATAVOR
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Inclytæ
Exactam hanc urbis LVGDVNI
BATAVORVM Sculpturam
debita animi Submissione
L · M · Q ·
offero dedico consecroque
P. bastius
Anno D. 1600

Image source: Leiden Archives

PLYMOUTH ADVENTURE COSTUME AND MAKEUP DESIGNS, 1952

In 1950, Ernest Gebler wrote a best-selling book based on the Mayflower story. By 1952, *Plymouth Adventure* was a Hollywood film starring Spencer Tracy. The film went on to win the 1953 Academy Award for Best Special Effects. It is part of the Mayflower's cultural legacy.

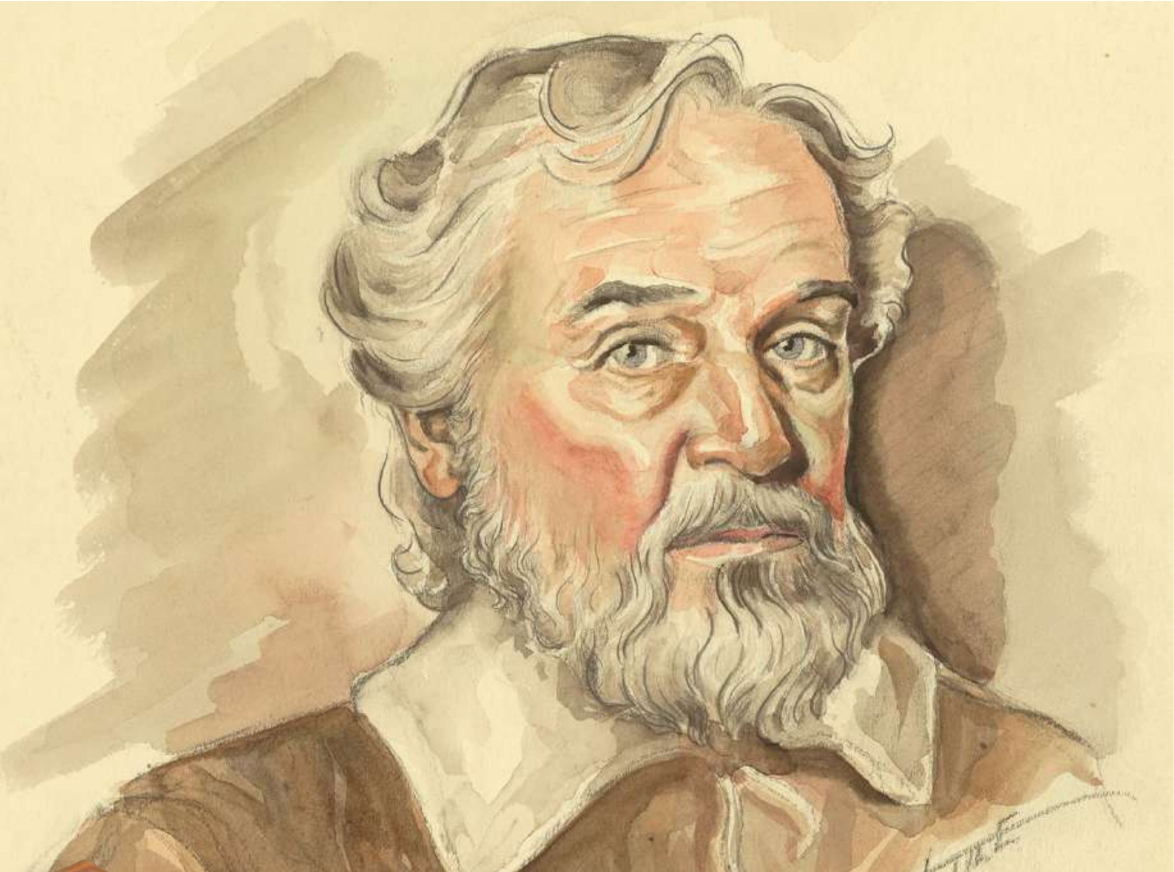


Image source: On loan from the Margaret Herrick Library, Los Angeles

WAMPANOAG COOKING POT, 2019

The Wampanoag are the People of the First Light. They are also the people who ensured the survival of the Mayflower colonists. They have lived along the eastern coast of what we now call America for 12,000 years – and they're still there now. This piece was made by ceramicist Nosapocket/Ramona Peters and it is Plymouth's first commission to a Wampanoag artist. It will come into the permanent collections of The Box, Plymouth.

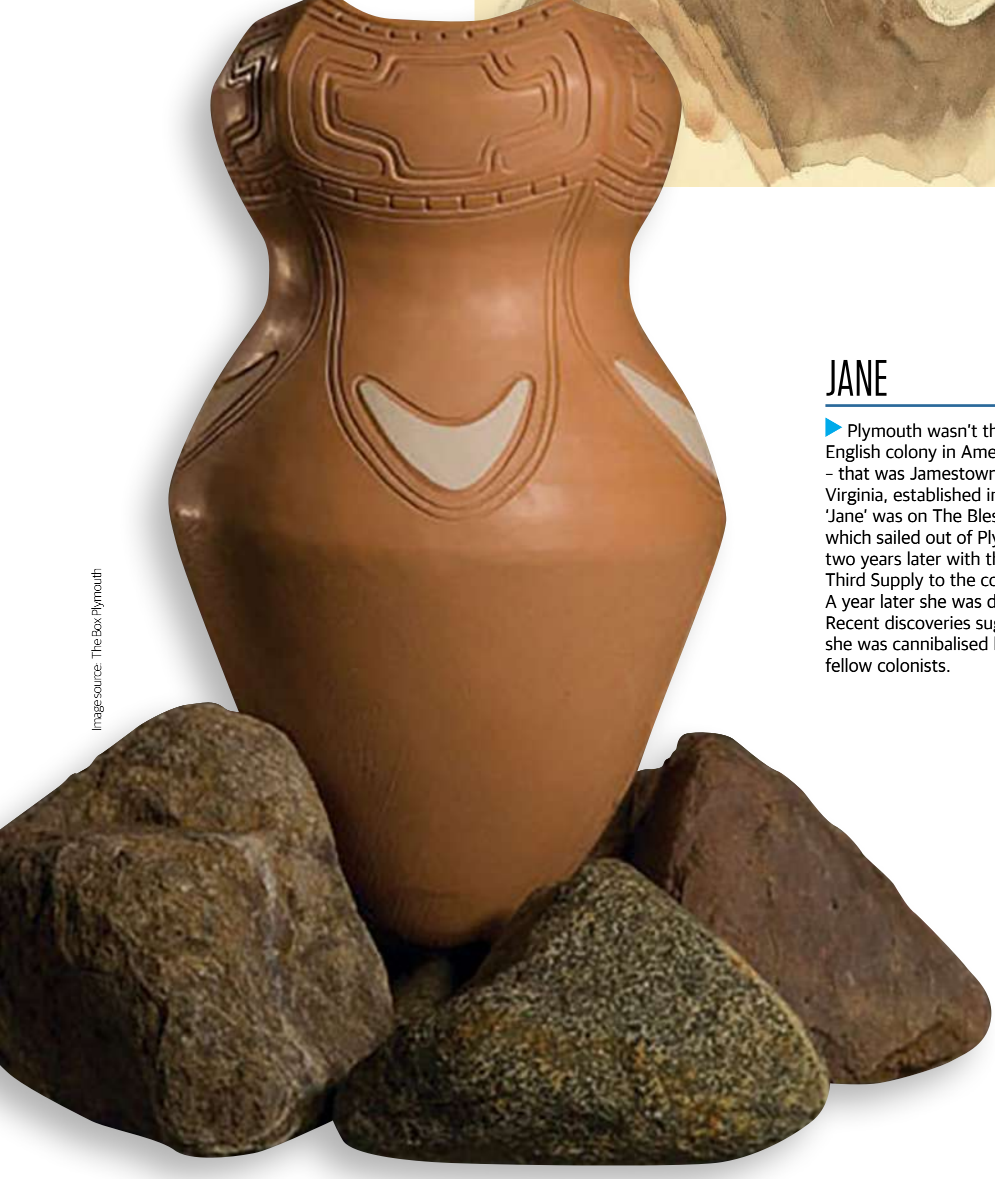


Image source: The Box Plymouth

JANE

Plymouth wasn't the first English colony in America – that was Jamestown in Virginia, established in 1607. 'Jane' was on The Blessing, which sailed out of Plymouth two years later with the Third Supply to the colony. A year later she was dead. Recent discoveries suggest she was cannibalised by her fellow colonists.

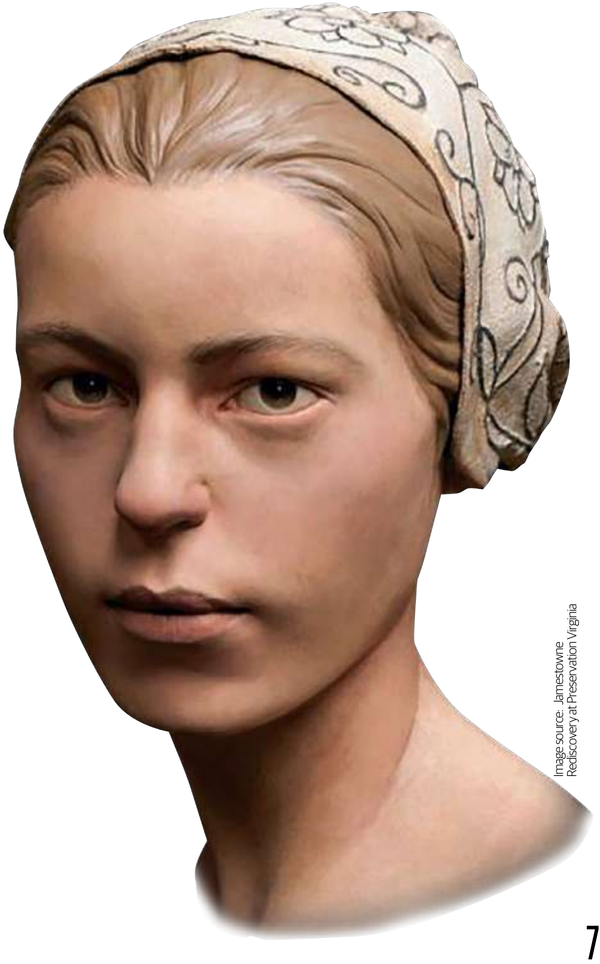


Image source: Jamestowne Rediscovery at Preservation Virginia

REVIEWS

The books, TV shows and films causing a stir in the history world this month

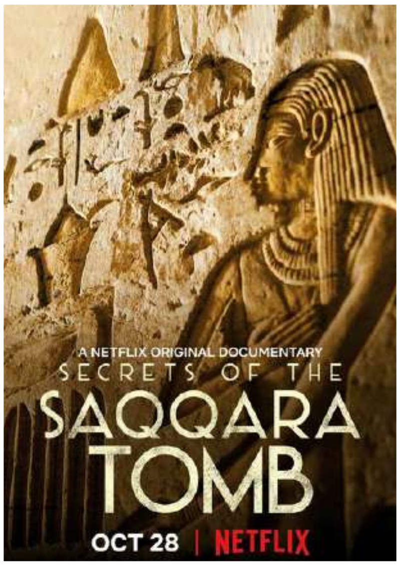


Image source: Netflix

SECRETS OF THE SAQQARA TOMB

A fascinating glimpse into the pressures and pleasures of modern archaeology

Certificate: PG **Director:** James Tovell **Executive Producers:** Richard Bradley, Caterina Turroni **Released:** Out now

There's a moment during *Secrets Of The Saqqara Tomb* that stands out as being particularly thrilling. It's strangely not a moment that takes place at the dig site, despite all the incredible objects and artefacts the team finds over the course of six weeks in the spring of 2019. This moment happens in a lab, presumably many miles away, over the mummified remains of a very large cat-like creature. As the team X-rays the bundle of bones in front of them an electricity seems to enter the air. Watching these experts become giddy as school children as they realise what it is they have in front of them sent a little thrill down our spines too. It's these personal moments the film excels at capturing.

We won't spoil the exact details of what the X-ray reveals, but it speaks to the strengths of this documentary that it's the craft of archaeology in all of its many facets that really seems to get the most attention here. The Saqqara dig site this film focuses on is just a short distance from the step pyramid of Djoser, thought to be the oldest in Egypt. It's a location teeming with burial sites and in this instance the focus is on a tomb belonging to a priest named Wahtye from around 4,400 years ago, as well as a necropolis devoted to the cat goddess Bastet. While all in the same location, the film jumps between these two narratives as the team searches for something eye-catching enough that they can secure funding for further research after Ramadan. This knowledge adds what feels a little like an artificial countdown for the sake of drama, but it doesn't detract too much from the reality.

What exactly is real time or reconstruction in the documentary is a little unclear, with cameras clearly placed ahead or beside of researchers as they make their discoveries. Either way, it's a beautifully shot film. As much as the hot sun beats down on the workers out in the sands searching for further evidence of a Bastet cult, so the sun peeks into the tomb of Wahtye, illuminating its stunningly colourful and well-preserved decoration. The mystery of Wahtye, why he had such a lavish tomb and the fate of his family is the main thrust of this story and it takes some interesting turns.

But while these discoveries drive the story, the heart of it is the Egyptian team of archaeologists making them. The film makes regular connections between the lives of the ancients they are studying and the current Egyptian reality. Scenes of farming on the walls of a tomb mix with footage of similar techniques being used today. Talk of Wahtye's children is cut with shots of researchers spending time with theirs. These are Egyptian men and women uncovering their own distant past and having very genuine emotional connections to what they find. It's a small but moving element of an engaging and enlightening documentary. ***JG***

★★★★☆

Reviews by
Jonathan Gordon, Callum McKelvie, Catherine Curzon

WARTIME CHRISTMAS

An accessible look at Christmas during the two World Wars

Authors Anthony Richards **Publisher** Imperial War Museum
Price £12.99 **Released** Out now

Anthony Richards
Wartime Christmas
BRITISH CELEBRATIONS DURING TWO WORLD WARS

Whether it was an impromptu football match in no man's land, the efforts of captured British servicemen in the 1940s or stories of the home front, Christmas festivities didn't stop just because Britain was at war. This beautifully produced new book seeks to examine how Christmas was celebrated not only by those away fighting, but those left at home as well.

Wartime Christmas is a richly illustrated book that manages to cover an impressive amount of ground despite its relatively small page count. As is to be expected by a book published by the Imperial War Museum, the sources and historical information are impeccable, and there's much of value in this slim volume for those with a passing interest in the subject or younger readers seeking to learn more about life in wartime.

From rationing to the separation of families, entertainment to religious worship, each chapter is concise, informative and makes good use of resources from the museum archives. The book's greatest asset is the huge variety of materials that illustrate each chapter, from recipes for parsnip fritters and touching letters home to Christmas ornaments made by injured soldiers and even festive posters produced by POWs.

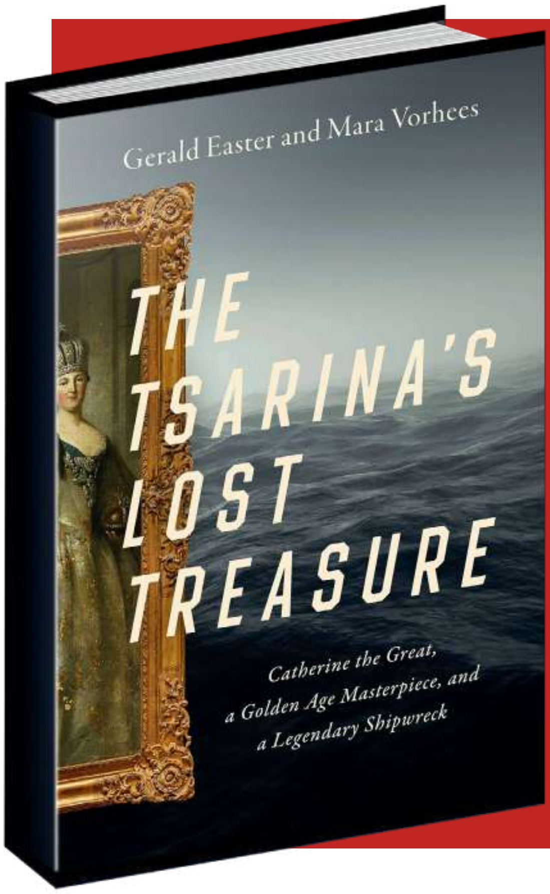
As an introduction to the subject, *Wartime Christmas* is excellent. It would've been nice to see some recommended further reading for readers who'd like to dig deeper, but as a gift book or a gentle starting point for a casual reader, it's an ideal stocking filler. ***CC***

★★★★☆

THE TSARINA'S LOST TREASURE

A stranger-than-fiction tale of treasure, shipwrecks and an enduring mystery

Author Gerald Easter and Mara Vorhees **Publisher** Pegasus Books
Price £23.19 **Released** Out now


Gerald Easter and Mara Vorhees
THE TSARINA'S LOST TREASURE
Catherine the Great, a Golden Age Masterpiece, and a Legendary Shipwreck

In autumn 1771, the Vrouw Maria was wrecked in a storm off the Finnish coast and lost in the depths of the Baltic Sea. She took with her a fortune in artworks that had been part of the collection of Catherine the Great. For two centuries treasure-hunters searched for the near-legendary shipwreck and her priceless cargo, desperate to recover the lost masterpieces that languished in the hold. When the wreck was located in 1999, the race was on to recover the cargo once feared lost forever.

Though *The Tsarina's Lost Treasure* tells the story of the Vrouw Maria and the people who sought to salvage her, it also examines the changing cultural landscape of the 18th century and the court of Catherine the Great, as well as the shifting fortunes of Dutch Golden Age artist Gerrit Dou, whose masterpiece was lost in the wreck. In the capable hands of Gerald Easter and Mara Vorhees, these multiple narrative strands are woven together in a compelling and fascinating tale of mystery and investigation. Although the Vrouw Maria set off on her fateful voyage two-and-a-half centuries ago, her remarkable story continues to this day and this lively tale benefits from a well-drawn cast as well as some eyebrow-raising developments.

The Tsarina's Lost Treasure is a fascinating and highly readable account of a true maritime mystery. Filled with intrigue, adventure and unexpected twists, it's sure to entertain casual readers and historians alike. ***CC***

★★★★★

All About History Annual Vol. 7
From the heretic pharaoh who tried to worship a single god to the men and women who helped children escape Nazi bombings in WWII, this new **All About History Annual** brings you more of the most fascinating tales from history. Broken down into ancient lives, heroic women, war stories, royal legends and horrible histories, there's something for everyone in this special collection.

Out now!

Buy *All About History Annual Vol. 7* in shops or online at **magazinesdirect.com**
Price: £12.99

HISTORY OF WAR RECOMMENDS…

Secret Letters
Author John Willis
Price £18.99 **Publisher** Mensch Publishing

Out now!

John Willis's truly superb work is based on letters written by intelligence officer Geoffrey Myers to his wife, Margot. Letters that were written, but never sent because Myers had left his family behind in France, and he expected they would not be read – not least because the family were Jewish. These letters are a wonderful contemporary account of the Battle of Britain as seen by a man who lived and worked with some of 'the Few'.

A HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY

A handsome collector's edition of Diarmaid MacCulloch's landmark study

Author Diarmaid MacCulloch **Publisher** Folio Society **Price** £195 **Released** Out now

In 2009 Diarmaid MacCulloch released *A History of Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years*. The book quickly became something of a sensation and garnered much interest, no doubt due partly to its provocative subtitle. After all, how can someone write a 3,000-year history of a subject only some 2,000 years old? Now the book has been re-released by the Folio Society in a lavish three-volume collection that is sure to catch the eye of any would-be collector.

So what is it about MacCulloch's work that makes it so fascinating? Firstly, for a subject that is as dense and admittedly heavy as a study of Christianity, he writes with a light and humorous touch. His scope is truly breathtaking. It would be easy to get bogged down in such an epic story but MacCulloch manages to not only keep on top of his subject, but present it in such a way that it proves endlessly engaging. The sheer breadth of topics discussed (architecture to art, empires to ancient history) also pulls up numerous surprises and packs in a wealth of information. And what about those extra 1,000 years? One of the approaches that makes MacCulloch's work so unique was his decision to look at the earliest predecessors to Christianity, including links to the Ancient Greeks. Even some ten years after its publication it still remains a refreshing angle.

For this new edition, not much has been added to the text in terms of new material other than an introduction by Neil MacGregor, author of *A History Of The World In 100 Objects*. MacGregor praises MacCulloch but does not present anything particularly new or interesting; his introduction does just that – it introduces. However, arguably this is a work that doesn't need much additional material. Instead, the choice to reprint the work by the Folio Society feels more like something that had to happen. It's not an updated or amended edition, more an extra seal of approval and demonstration of the respect which MacCulloch's work has garnered.

Of course, the Folio Society is renowned for its gorgeous publications and it's impossible to discuss any of its new editions without devoting some time to their physical presentation. This time it has chosen to present MacCulloch's work as three distinct volumes in one set. Each features a cover design by Jamie Clarke and is based on a distinct historical cross, bound in blue hardcover with the cross and design strikingly blocked with a different foil. They are truly exceptional designs and will look handsome on anyone's bookshelf. As you'd expect from the Folio Society, each volume contains a wealth of illustrations, selected with the approval of MacCulloch himself. Chosen from a variety of sources including private collections, museums and the Vatican, they perfectly illustrate the text.

For anyone with an interest in the history of religion and Christianity, this is a must-have. With this handsome new edition available, there's more reason than ever to add his groundbreaking work to your collection. ***CM***

★★★★★

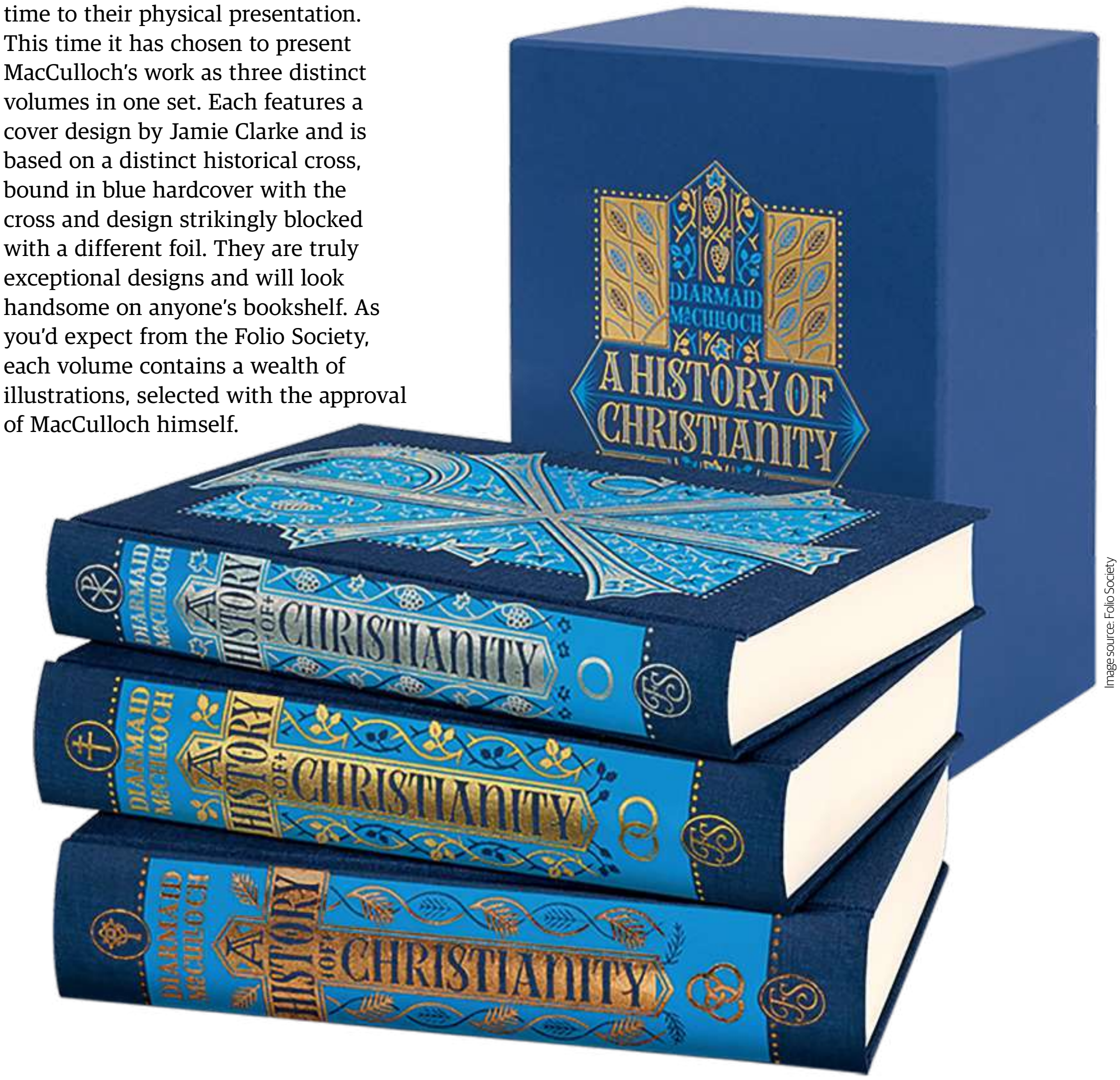


Image source: Folio Society

HISTORY VS HOLLYWOOD

Fact versus fiction on the silver screen

HARRIET

Director: Kasi Lemmons **Starring:** Cynthia Erivo, Leslie Odom Jr, Janelle Monáe **Country:** USA **Released:** 2019

A powerful biopic about an incredible woman, but does it stick to the facts or twist the truth?

VERDICT: There are a few shortcuts and embellishments, but it's largely truthful

01 Enslaved 'Minty', as Harriet Tubman was originally known, is shown running for freedom alone after learning she's to be sold. She actually left with her brothers, who turned back fearing the repercussions if caught. She finished the journey alone as shown.

02 Upon reaching the Pennsylvania border, Tubman looks at her hands with joy. This is based on her own account of her escape: "I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person now I was free. There was such glory over everything."

03 Several characters in the film are entirely fictitious. The reformed bounty hunter Walter, the Brodess son Gideon who hunts Tubman and Marie the black business owner are all fictional, so all the scenes involving them bear no relation to real events.

04 Tubman goes back South to get her husband, but he has remarried thinking she died. In truth, he opposed her running away to begin with. This also wasn't her first trip South as she had already returned to free her niece and her niece's children.

05 The film concludes with the Combahee River Raid in which 750 enslaved people were freed during the Civil War. Tubman is shown leading the raid, although this has been disputed. Certainly she helped plan and execute the raid, as well as being a Union spy.

Main image: © Alamy
5x inset image source: Focus Features

LEBKUCHEN

Did you know?

The gingerbread bakers of Nuremberg formed their own guild in 1643

Main image: © Alamy
Inset image source: wiki/Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando

Ingredients

- 250g plain flour
- 85g butter
- 85g ground almond
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground cardamom
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp ground cloves
- 1 tsp ground nutmeg
- ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 250ml clear honey
- A pinch of ground mace

For the decoration:

- 100g icing sugar
- 1-2 tbsp water
- Blanched sliced almonds (optional)
- 200g dark or milk chocolate, finely chopped (optional)

A TASTY CHRISTMAS CLASSIC, GERMANY, 14TH CENTURY – PRESENT

The history of lebkuchen, commonly referred to as German gingerbread, dates all the way back to the medieval era when they were made in monasteries. By the 16th century, production of lebkuchen developed rapidly around Nuremberg, which was at the intersection of major trade routes and therefore became a centre of the spice trade. Nuremberg bakers used the numerous exotic spices at their disposal to produce their iconic gingerbread, complete with nuts and sweetened with honey. Today, there are many different versions of lebkuchen and they are traditionally sold at German Christmas markets in decorative shapes, most notably hearts. Although they're associated with Germany, variations of lebkuchen are also popular in Switzerland, Poland, Austria and Hungary.

METHOD

01 Place a saucepan over low heat, pour in the honey and butter and stir until melted. In a mixing bowl, sift in the flour and then mix in the rest of the dry ingredients, including the ground spices.

02 Pour the melted honey and butter mixture into the bowl with the dry ingredients. Mix everything together to make a sticky dough, shaping it into a ball. Cover the dough and place it in the fridge to cool for at least an hour, or even overnight.

03 Preheat your oven to 200°C/180°C fan /gas mark six and prepare two baking trays lined with baking paper. If you can, dip your hands in some flour to make the next step easier.

04 Take small pieces of dough and roll them into equally sized balls. Gently flatten each one to form a disk, using either a rolling pin or your hands. Transfer the lebkuchen to the baking trays, making sure to leave space between them as they will spread in the oven.

05 Bake the lebkuchen for 10 to 15 minutes, before placing them on a wire rack to cool completely.

While the lebkuchen cools, it's time to prepare the decoration (this is completely optional and you can leave your lebkuchen plain if you wish!).

06 For a sugar glaze, combine the icing sugar and water in a bowl until smooth. For a chocolate glaze, melt half of the chocolate in a glass bowl over a simmering saucepan of water. Remove from the heat and add in the rest of the chocolate until it has all melted.

07 Place the wire rack with the lebkuchen on a baking sheet or tray to catch the drippings. Dip the lebkuchen into your chosen glaze and then place them back on the rack to set. If you want to top the lebkuchen with blanched almonds, do it while the glaze is still wet.

08 If you're feeling a little bit fancy, you can use both glazes to decorate your lebkuchen. Start by dipping one half of the lebkuchen into the sugar glaze and leave to set, before dipping the remaining half in the chocolate glaze. Serve your festive sweet treats alongside the hot beverage of your choice!

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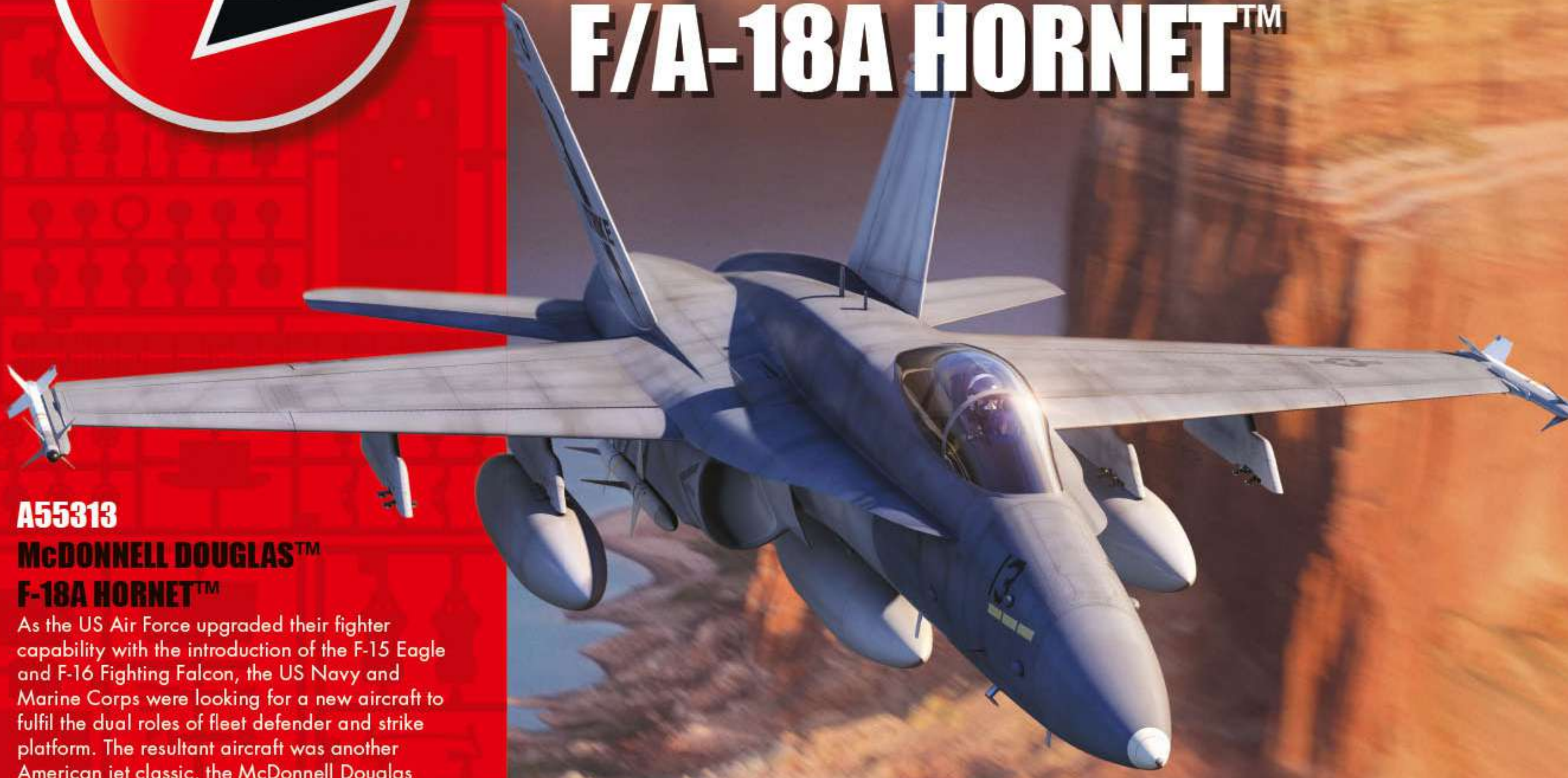

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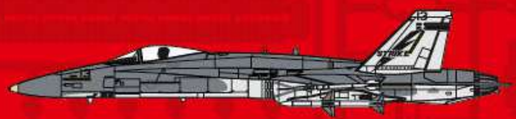
McDONNELL DOUGLAS™ F-18A HORNET™

As the US Air Force upgraded their fighter capability with the introduction of the F-15 Eagle and F-16 Fighting Falcon, the US Navy and Marine Corps were looking for a new aircraft to fulfil the dual roles of fleet defender and strike platform. The resultant aircraft was another American jet classic, the McDonnell Douglas F-18 Hornet, a distinctive looking twin engined fighter which provided naval units with a significant capability upgrade. Required to operate in the demanding environment of aircraft carriers at sea, the Hornet is an extremely tough aeroplane and has proved to be effective in the roles for which it was originally intended and flexible enough to take on additional duties. Also proving itself effective and reliable in combat, the Hornet is perhaps best known as the aircraft operated by the US Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the 'Blue Angels', with the team flying the F-18 since November 1986. The team are regarded as one of the premier aerobatic display teams in the world and their thrilling displays of precision flying are the highlight of any Airshow in which they perform.



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